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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Says No-Fly Zone 'Illegal'

NC2701113193 Paris AFP in English 1057 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Manama, Jan 27 (AFP)—Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has dismissed as "illegal" the allied-imposed air exclusion zones in northern and southern Iraq, in an interview published Wednesday by AL-HAYAT AL-TIJARIYAH newspaper.

The United States, Britain and France set up a no-fly zone above the 36th parallel at the end of the Gulf war in February 1991 to protect Kurds against Iraqi attack.

Last August they created another one south of the 32d parallel to protect Shiite Muslims on the same grounds.

'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab League was "opposed to the use of force against all Arab countries. We hope that everything will be solved through dialogue."

"In addition we doubt that certain measures by the allies are lawful.

"If their attitude concerning the creation of air exclusion zones was a hundred percent legal, there would be no reason for any doubting on our part. But it is illegal," he told the London-based daily.

Iraq Urges League To Assert Arab Rights to Rivers

NC2601124293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—Iraq has urged Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to move to assert Arab rights to the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers following reports that Turkey signed an agreement with a consortium of European companies to build a fourth dam and a power plant on the Euphrates inside Turkish territory.

This came in a message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, conveyed by Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League.

In a press release today, Najm said the Turkish stance clearly ignores Iraq's and Syria's rights to Euphrates water. He said that during the tripartite negotiations among Turkey, Syria, and Iraq, Turkey evaded a fair and acceptable formula to share the Euphrates as an international river according to international law.

He noted that international law does not permit any of the countries that have the common river to conduct any measures or set up installations on the river or its tributaries without consent from other participating countries and without concluding an agreement with those involved.

Turkey has three dams on the Euphrates—Karakaya, Keban, and Ataturk. A fourth, Birecik, is under construction.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Affirms Multilateral Talks Boycott

TA2601144593 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Ramallah—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman of the Palestinian team to the peace talks, has denied that the Palestinians intend to participate in the meetings of the multilateral talks economic and development committee.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said that no change has occurred in the Palestinian stance toward the various aspects of the negotiating process. She pointed out that the position on the multilateral talks is the same as that on the bilateral talks, something which has been officially affirmed to the U.S. sponsor.

Dr. 'Ashrawi explained that the Palestinians continue to adhere to their position, which rejects any participation in the multilateral or bilateral talks as long as the deportee issue is not resolved in accordance with Security Council Resolution 799.

The Palestinian spokesman was commenting on the statement and speculation of Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin on possible active Palestinian participation in the economic development committee meetings slated to be held at the Belgian capital on 9 February.

Dr. 'Ashrawi affirmed that intensive contacts are underway between the PLO and the Arab states participating in the multilateral talks. Those contacts have led to the formulation of an Arab commitment not to resort to unilateral positions. In addition, any decision on participation would be a collective decision.

'Abdal-al-Shafi: No Talks Until Deportees Return

LD2601175293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Dr Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has affirmed at a news conference he held this afternoon at the National Hotel in Jerusalem that the Palestinian delegation will not return to the negotiating table with the Israeli delegation as long as Israel does not rescind its decision to deport 396 Palestinian citizens outside their homeland, and comply with UN Security Council Resolution 799.

Dr 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the report of the UN secretary general in this context is important; the Security Council has declared its pledge [on the return home of deportees] and is losing patience with the Israeli position, and if the United States supports Israel, its position will be laid open to ridicule before world public opinion.

'Abd-al-Shafi further said on this topic that he is convinced that the United States will adopt a position that pleases Israel and will use the right of veto if the Security Council imposes sanctions on Israel to force it to comply with Security Council resolution 799.

PLO Condemns Israeli 'Maneuvers' on Deportees

TA2601150293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Jan 93 pp 1, 15

[Text] Tunis—In response to the new Israeli maneuvers on the deportees, Taysir Khalid, member of the PLO Executive Committee and of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine Politburo, has said that Rabin's government is continuing its maneuvers in order to avoid implementing Security Council Resolution 799, which calls on Israel to facilitate the immediate return of the deportees to their homes and families. This government has announced that the deportees can contact their lawyers in the area under Israel's control in south Lebanon and reach agreement with them on the judicial pursuit of the deportees' right to return.

Taysir Khalid said that the Israeli Government is aware that the Security Council resolution does not concern the legal formula of the right of return but the right of a Palestinian to continue living in his homeland on the basis of international legitimacy, natural human rights, and the Fourth Geneva Convention. This right is subject neither to bargaining, nor the authorities' positions, nor the Israeli High Court of Justice.

Taysir Khalid condemned the Israeli maneuvers as well as the U.S. Administration's pressure on Arab states, its double standard policy, and its attempts to prevent the UN Security Council from shouldering its responsibility toward the deportees. He urged the PLO and the Arab states to shoulder their responsibility by calling for an immediate meeting of the Security Council and demanding that it impose economic sanctions on Israel and provide international protection for the Palestinian people.

PLO Official Calls For Return of Deportees

AU2701100893 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 0600 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, PLO adviser of the official Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, by Konstanze Ripar; place and date not given—recorded; Sha'th statements in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Ripar] Nabil Sha'th is a PLO member and has therefore not been able to be an official negotiator [to the peace negotiations with Israel]. However, as 'Arafat's political adviser, he was responsible for most positions during the peace talks. Now he could soon sit at the table himself.

[Sha'th] I think that would be a very natural step and will soon be made, this time in public and officially because the PLO has always participated; it organized, formed, and advised the negotiating team. But now I think that things should happen at the table and not beside it.

[Ripar] But the PLO is not prepared for negotiations as long as the deported Palestinians are stuck in no-man's-land.

[Sha'th] The deportation by Israel is a violation of the rules of the peace conference, the Geneva Refugee Convention, and the UN Security Council resolutions. It is now up to Israel to meet all these commitments and to return the deportees immediately because that will open the door to a new round of negotiations.

[Ripar] The PLO has a split relationship with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The PLO regards itself as the protective organization of all Palestinians. However, Hamas has not been a member so far. Talks are now being held on membership. But Hamas is far more radical than the PLO leadership. It wants to dissolve Israel and found an Islamic-Palestinian state. Moreover, it is against the Middle East peace process. Hamas will have to give up this position if it joins the PLO.

In the occupied territories many Palestinians are more attracted by Hamas than by the PLO because it provides a minimal social network for the unemployed and poor and promises equality to the people instead of the hierarchic PLO order. But Nabil Sha'th does not see the role of Hamas as that of a benefactor.

[Sha'th] For the past 30 years, the PLO has provided the whole of the financial, economic, social, and political support for the Palestinians. It has paid for all hospitals and schools in the occupied territories. But since the Gulf war the PLO has been financially starved by the Arab Gulf states. Iran and others are now giving their money to Hamas. Since that time it has looked as if Hamas is the one that is providing the money.

[Ripar] The break between the PLO and the Gulf states was caused by Yasir 'Arafat's support for Iraq in the Gulf war. But that was a misunderstanding, Sha'th says. The PLO always supported a peaceful solution and only rejected the allies' violent strike. Now it is also in favor of a solution by negotiation. The attacks on Iraq are completely unjustified and do not have a legal basis because the no-fly zones are not covered by any UN resolutions, Sha'th says.

[Sha'th] Even if there were a legal basis, why is the law always pushed through by force when it is broken in Iraq and not when it is broken in Israel? Is Israel immune to international law? I do not understand that. If they do not yield to the Security Council resolution, there must be a new one that threatens sanctions as in Iraq. But I do not believe that one has to go that far. I think that if the Israelis see that the international community, including the United States, insist on the return and that they have to give in, they will give in. I have no doubt about this.

[Ripar] The next round of the peace negotiations can start as soon as Israel takes the Palestinians back, Sha'th says. If they come back today, we will negotiate tomorrow, he says.

Israeli Broadcast of 'Arafat Remarks 'Good Omen'

TA2601171193 Jerusalem AL-'AJR in Arabic 23 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Yes, the Brave Should Meet on the Road to the Peace of the Brave"]

[Text] It was not expected that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin would respond favorably to president Yasir 'Arafat's invitation two evenings ago through Israeli Television "for a meeting of the brave to make the peace of the brave." Therefore, the statement by Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari to the effect that Israel will not negotiate with the PLO was not surprising. The upshot is that Rabin does not possess any courage in this respect. For example, he made sure to be absent from the Knesset session during the vote on abolishing the law banning meetings with the PLO leadership and members, as if by this "tactic" he was implicitly announcing his lack of support for this abolition, which eventually took place. This and many other examples show Rabin to be wavering and confused and unable, so far at least, to adopt the important and effective Israeli decision to meet with president Yasir 'Arafat and negotiate directly and frankly with the PLO, sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people, both inside and outside.

Obviously, the new U.S. Administration's response, through State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher, was compatible in this regard with the official Israeli response. This spokesman stated that Washington does not intend to resume the dialogue with the PLO—a dialogue suspended by the Bush administration in June 1990.

Undoubtedly, there is a clear paradox in this U.S.-Israeli "equation." The previous U.S. Administration had emphasized that the dialogue would be resumed only after abolition of the law banning Israeli meetings. When this abolition actually took place, it was expected that this resumption would occur almost automatically. Apparently, matters are more complicated than this, and the previous "conditional promise" on canceling the suspension is no more than a rhetorical promise without any practical meaning!

Hence, will the abolition of the ban on meetings also be merely an illusory facade without serious realization of the expected talks between the PLO and Israel?

At any rate, there will be other opportunities for answering such questions. While observing the development of events, we would like to perceive in Israeli Television's interruption of its normal programs and the broadcast of president Yasir 'Arafat's interview a good omen by this important Israeli media organization. We would also like to see in this omen an indication of other Israeli gestures that help to pave the way toward negotiations between Israel and the PLO, leading to the peace of the brave.

EC Said To Have Palestinian Infrastructure Plans

TA2701132893 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Jan 93 pp 1, 15

[By Samir Sa'd-al-Din]

[Excerpt] Tunis—Palestinian sources said yesterday that official European circles have delivered to the PLO blueprints and studies on the establishment of a Palestinian infrastructure during the interim period in the occupied territories. This came during meetings held recently by Ahmad Abu-al-'Ala', director general of the PLO Economic Department and coordinator of the multilateral conference committees, with the European High Commissioner and a number of EC officials.

Those sources said that during his upcoming trip to Europe, Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation's steering committee, will follow up the discussions about European participation in the establishment of this infrastructure. Al-Husayni will begin his European tour with a visit to Brussels where he is to meet with the Belgian foreign minister and senior Foreign Ministry officials. He will also meet with the European High Commissioner and officials in the EC presidential bureau. [passage omitted]

PLO, Egypt Agree on Repatriating Sinai Refugees

PM2601132793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jan 93 p 2

[Sawsan Abu-Husayn report: "PLO and Egypt Agree To Repatriate Canada Camp Palestinians"]

[Text] Cairo—Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that there is a Palestinian-Egyptian agreement to repatriate to Palestinian territory the Palestinians now living in the Canada camp in northern Sinai as soon as possible.

Kamal ruled out recent speculation about the possibility of Egypt hosting the Palestinians deported recently.

The Palestinian ambassador believes that there is still an opportunity because Israel has not rescinded its decision to deport the Palestinians. [sentence as published]

Kamal told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's recent visit to Israel actually reactivated the deportees issue in the right direction.

Rabin's government is trying to find a way to retreat on the deportees issue, and that is why the Israeli court's decision on the matter was delayed until tomorrow morning instead of last Monday [18 January] when Musa was in Israel.

The Palestinian ambassador reaffirmed the PLO's categorical rejection of the Israeli media claims that the deportees issue could be negotiated during the next round of talks, expected to begin late March. He wondered: "Does Israel want to negotiate with us about our people instead of our occupied territory?"

On reports about the possibility of a foreign ministers meeting to discuss the deportees issue, he said that there has been nothing official about that so far.

Meanwhile, Palestine National Council [PNC] Secretary Muhammad Subayh has stated that the second round of talks between the PLO and Hamas will be held in Khartoum this week.

He said that Fatah and Hamas agreed to continue their dialogue in order to bridge their views on the question of the peace negotiations, although Hamas still believed that such negotiations were futile.

UNSC Urged To Fulfill 'Responsibility'

TA2601193293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Jan 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Security Council and Emerging From the Empty Circle"]

[Text] Since 17 December, the date of the deportation of 413 Palestinians from their homes and families, and until now—exactly 38 days—the daily countdown has been continuing. During this long period, the United Nations has been running in a circle without trying to reach a decisive position. After the issuing of Resolution 799, the first envoy, Jonah, was dispatched to follow implementation of the process of the deportees' return. He collided with the Israeli rejection. Then, the second envoy, Gharekhan, was sent on his first mission, the failure of which led Butrus-Ghali to threaten that he will recommend to the Security Council to adopt measures against Israel.

In order to give Israel a last chance, Gharekhan came on a second mission. The wall of Israeli rejection, however, led to the collapse of his efforts. Thus, the deportee issue once again went back to the UN Security Council [UNSC] so that the Council would speak its mind in the same clear and decisive manner in which it deals with Iraq: The resolutions of the Council must be respected and its credibility maintained.

It is worth noting that recently Israel has been trying to diminish international interest in the deportee issue and circumvent Resolution 799. In this context, there has been talk of reducing the deportation period and announcing new lists of those who have been deported by mistake. According to the latest count, the number of those deportees has reached 26.

While we welcome the return of any deportee to his homeland, family, and home, international interest should be focused on all the deportees and not on exceptional cases, such as those deported by mistake or the sick, so that the exception will not turn into the rule and people will not get the impression that Israel is not violating international laws and human principles by its expulsion of the great majority of the deportees. Perhaps this is the long- term objective which Israel is seeking now.

Deportation as punishment is a wrong practice from which one should back down, otherwise the international community will adopt the necessary measures. This is the message that the Security Council can send to Israel as soon as possible, because partial or marginal solutions threaten to consign the basic problem, the immediate repatriation of all the deportees, to oblivion. This is the Security Council's responsibility and it should fulfill it in order to prove that it deals with all issues on equal footing and with one standard—the standard of objectivity, justice, and respect for human rights and the dignity of nations.

UN Deportees Vote Seen as Test of Clinton Policy

TA2601163293 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 25 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Urgent Action Needed"]

[Text] A third mission by a special U.N. envoy failed to resolve the case of the over 400 Palestinian expellees and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799. The bilateral and multilateral talks have also been shelved, and no breakthrough is expected from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, as envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan found, and will report, to the United Nations.

Next week it is possible, although Palestinians do not expect it, that the Israeli High Court may rule against the Rabin government's expulsion order because it contravenes a precious decision of the court—the case of the late mayor of Hebron, Fahd al-Qawasami, and the mayor of Halhul, who were allowed to return to appeal their expulsion orders.

The Clinton administration took office, and if all fails, then it is the new administration's top priority—if it wants to promote peace in the Middle East—to make the Rabin government understand that its expulsion order is the main hindrance toward the resumption of the peace talks. Clinton and his team will be put to the test on foreign policy and the international yardstick even before the first 100 days in office.

First, if the issue is discussed soon at the United Nations, will Clinton use his privilege of vetoing sanctions if taken against Israel? Second, will the new administration act with force and determination to overcome the present stalemate and the hurdle of expulsion?

The law against meeting with the PLO has finally fallen, and there is tremendous approval of this decision. No

hindrance today exists in having meetings and direct communication between Israelis and the PLO. This is the first step toward the goal of starting official talks and communication between officials on both sides, the PLO and Israeli Government. Many meetings and encounters are being prepared for the near future, in order to familiarize the Israeli public with the need to demand from their government open dialogue and negotiations with the PLO.

The situation in the area and specifically in the occupied territories is difficult and tense, yet opportunities exist and are at the disposal of the Israeli Government and the Clinton administration in order to revive the derailed peace process. The next few weeks will demonstrate the intentions of both Israel and the United States toward peace in the Middle East.

Clinton Focus on Domestic Issues Regretted

PM2501150993 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 22 Jan 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Clinton and Threat of Focus on Domestic Matters"]

[Text] By urging new President Bill Clinton to "cool down" the fever of the international stage and focus on domestic questions as much as possible, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter is trying to tell the new master of the White House not to be dragged along by the policies of the former Republican administration and not to waste the coming four years in the corridors and perils of foreign policy in areas of tension like the Arab region.

It is clear that the Democrats, who have returned to the White House after at least 14 years, want to remain in it for a second or third term. And they realize that success in reforming the U.S. house from within is the road to this aim.

It seems that the defeated U.S. President George Bush knows this fact well, as he worked since his election defeat to implicate the new administration in more than one foreign problem, from Iraq through to Somalia and Bosnia. Because this is the first time in the history of the United States that a U.S. president has made major decisions to intervene militarily and dispatch forces to hotbeds of tension in the world during the transition period.

In his speech President Clinton spoke about a new world and the process of renovating the U.S. house so that it can lead this world. He is right in this view, but it will be difficult for him—and he is not experienced—to solve budget deficit problems and health care and economic recession issues in four years.

We object to President Clinton's concentration on internal matters and isolation from world issues. This is because the United States—and it is the superpower—is responsible for maintaining order and security in a new world dominated by ethics, values, justice, and fair distribution of wealth, namely through effective development plans financed by the rich industrial North to develop the poor, destitute South.

Our disagreement with the Bush administration emanates from its intervention by erroneous means in our regions and its unfair application of international legitimacy and its resolutions. If these interventions were focused on the values of justice, equality, and unselective implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, the Arabs would have been the first to regret its departure.

President Clinton should succeed in what Bush's foreign policy failed to achieve, that is securing a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict issue—a just settlement that safeguards the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self-determination and to return to their homes on the basis of the UN resolutions. We were very happy when when those close to him refused to receive Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin until he implements UN Security Council Resolution 799, which demands that the Palestinian deportees be returned to their families and homes.

As a Democratic President Clinton spoke about giving priority to human rights and democratic values. We do not believe that the new world to which he is aspiring can exist and flourish unless his administration focuses all its efforts on keeping its promises in this connection.

A quick look at the former Bush administration's report on human rights violations in the Arab world will reveal that Washington's allies were the biggest human right violators and the most remote from democracy compared with other Arabs listed as enemies of the United States.

Clinton Urged To Change U.S. Foreign Policy

PM2501160393 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 22 Jan 93 p 11

[Article by Farid al-Khatib: "Good Morning, William Clinton"]

[Text] Congratulations to the United States on the 42d constitutional transition. Congratulations to it on the "democratic game" which sent George Bush back south from the White House and William Clinton from the south to the White House.

Congratulations to it on the renewal of its youthfulness with the appointment of 47-year-old William Jefferson Clinton as president of the republic.

And congratulations to Bill Clinton, who was born an orphan and whose mother worked as a nurse, on making it to the White House and assuming the presidency of the world's most powerful state.

But the "change" promised by Clinton will be in domestic policy, not in foreign policy concerning U.S. relations with the Palestinian people, Iraq, Libya, the Arab nation, and Israel.

And the hope which Clinton has brought for the United States from his birthplace, Hope, does not apply to the other peoples of the world.

Even though he has promised to focus on domestic issues, he will not abandon the Arabian Gulf region, because it contains oil. The essence of U.S. domestic problems is economic, and the state of California alone consumes as much oil as Japan or Germany.

He will refrain from wielding the big stick in the Arabian Gulf, because the United States has failed to reach an agreement with the Arab oil-producing states to give them a fair price for oil in return for a continuous supply of low-price oil to the United States.

In fact the U.S. call to spread democracy under the "new world order" will stop at the borders of the Arab world, in order to safeguard the guardians of U.S. interests in the short term, prevent the establishment of democratic systems in the Arab Gulf states demanding that an agreement be reached with the United States on fair oil prices, and curb the establishment of a democratic system to rival Israel—as was the case in Lebanon.

In fact the call for protecting human rights in the world could stop at the borders of occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon and could stand on the brink of persecuting Islamic movements and outside the camp sheltering the 413 Palestinians deported to Lebanon. And it could be limited to putting ointment on the wound caused by civil war after the collapse of a ruler loyal to the West, as happened in Somalia.

As for the call for pluralism so that the world can become an image of the United States, it has turned in the Arab world into an issue of truth designed for something sinister, namely to fragment our ranks, to preoccupy us with the achievement of local federations rather than the establishment of Arab unity, to secure the establishment of a "multisectarian state" like Israel, and to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state.

In fact William Clinton, who is expected to lead an air and ground war against the Serbs in the name of destroying the "ethnic cleansing" operation, may not lift a finger against the "ethnic cleansing" policy which Israel has been exercising against the Palestinian people since 1948 and which Kuwait has exercised in deporting Palestinians from its territory since the 1991 Gulf war.

It is because the United States does not want the "new world order" to reflect what it wants for itself through a domestic policy promising it prosperity that its new president has emerged. [sentence as published] We accuse it of applying double standards. In fact we fear the contradiction between the happiness, the singing, the joy and celebration in Washington and the grief, the weeping, and the funerals in Palestine, Iraq, and other parts of the Arab world. We fear that Clinton's saxophone will turn onto a gun aimed against pan-Arab security in the name of U.S. national security.

Perhaps William Clinton will succeed in narrowing the gap between the United States and the Arab world by moving U.S. domestic policy, which pleases us, closer to its foreign policy, which saddens us. We should like him not merely because we hate many of our rulers, but because he wants for us what he wants for his homeland's sons.

Algeria

Government Wants 'Substantial' OPEC Output Cuts

LD2701090193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted noting the OPEC president is expected in to arrive in Algeria on 27 January carrying a message from the president of Venezuela to Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi; he will also hold talks with the Algerian minister for energy on the means for stopping the current deterioration in oil prices, and the reduction of production; noting that the scheduled meeting of the OPEC ministerial committee for supervision in Vienna next month is expected to result in an agreement on reducing OPEC oil production]

In this respect, Algeria sees that this reduction must be substantial and logically distributed if OPEC wants to avoid the dangers of a larger deterioration of the oil market during the second third, and maintain the chances of returning to the approved price, $21. [passage omitted summarizing stances of OPEC members, saying Parra's present tour is an attempt to convince the big Gulf producers of the need to adopt new arrangements to raise the prices of crude oil]

FLN Expresses Readiness To Hold Dialogue

LD2601225693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] The National Liberation Front [FLN] party today defined its attitude to the Higher Council of State [HSC] chairman's [Ali Kafi] call for dialogue in his latest speech.

In a statement today, the FLN expressed full readiness to take part in the dialogue to be organized by the HSC in an attempt to solve the grave problems in the national arena.

However, the FLN believes that everything in Ali Kafi's speech is open to discussion, especially the concept of drastic change, the system of government, the transitional period, amending the Constitution, and giving a kick for the start of dialogue and consultation.

The party appealed to all political, social, and cultural activists to do everything to promote the dialogue and ensure its success. It also called on all Algerians to work to contain the circle of violence.

Minister Receives Egyptian Military Delegation

LD2601115493 Algiers APS in English 1006 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Algiers, Jan 26 (APS)—General Khaled Nezzar, member of the Higher State Committee and minister of national defence, received Monday [25 January] here the Egyptian military delegation led by General Muhammad al-Maghrawi, director of armament of Armed Forces, in presence of the Egyptian ambassador to Algiers. This meeting, which was attended by the chief of staff of the National Popular Army, General Abdelmalek Guenaizia, falls in the frame of military cooperation between the two countries, a communique of the Defence Ministry indicated. It is worth recalling that this delegation is sojourning in our country from January 19 at the invitation of the Defence Ministry.

Egypt

Musa on Deportees; To Meet Peres in Geneva

NC2701082293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that prevarication or a delay in implementing Security Council Resolution 799 on the return of the Palestinian deportees will only prolong the situation, so UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali acted at the right time. He said Egypt supports this move to take the necessary measures to implement the resolution.

In a statement this morning before leaving for Switzerland, Musa said he will meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres there to resume discussion of the Palestinian deportees' issue and boosting the peace process. He said he will address the disarmament conference in Geneva and explain Egypt's stand on disarmament, the chemical and nuclear weapons treaty, and the Egyptian initiative to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. He said he will also stress the importance of achieving a balance of weapons in the region.

The foreign minister said he will attend International Economic Seminar meetings in which international figures are participating to discuss international issues.

'Arafat Asked To Cease Sudan Mediation Effort

PM2501121193 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 20-26 Jan 93 p 16

[Unattributed report: "Mubarak Asks 'Arafat To Stop Mediation Between Cairo and Khartoum"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-MAJALLAH—AL-MAJALLAH has learned from informed sources at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that President Husni Mubarak asked PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during their latest meeting in Cairo to stop his mediation attempts aimed at easing the tension between Egypt and Sudan, mending the rift, and bringing about a reconciliation meeting between President Mubarak and Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir.

The sources said that Mubarak advised 'Arafat to stop his endeavors in this connection because he categorically refuses to establish any normal relations with al-Bashir's government, particularly after the insults and the escalation attempts made by the Sudanese Government at

the behest of [National Islamic Front Secretary General] al-Turabi's group, making it impossible to restore normal relations in the present circumstances.

Mubarak made a point of telling the Sudanese leadership through 'Arafat that Sudan must stop the escalation, otherwise Egypt will reciprocate. The Egyptian president also emphasized that Cairo would never contemplate launching any military operations against Sudan, whatever the provocations, because the historical and human links between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples preclude such actions.

Committee Backs Iraq's Territorial Integrity

NC2701141493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1257 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—The People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee has said it cares very much about Iraq's territorial integrity, sovereignty over its territory, stability, and national unity. It called on the Iraqi political leadership not to escalate the situation and to abide by the UN resolutions. This came in a statement the committee issued today after reviewing the successive air raids by the three coalition states against fraternal Iraq that left innocent civilians dead.

The committee said: If the recent raids were carried out in implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, the Security Council is called upon to immediately and fully implement all its resolutions, not to adopt a double standard. It should do this so as not to lose its credibility.

The committee called on the Security Council to compel Israel to ensure the safe return of the Palestinian deportees to their homes by immediately implementing Resolution 799. It called on it to implement the resolutions that called for an end to the massacres and war crimes committed against the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The committee statement expressed the need to remove weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and not to allow one country any advantage over others. The committee said it is essential that Israel join in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and submit its nuclear installations to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Commission.

Authorities Arrest 23 al-Jihad Organization Members

NC2701122693 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1039 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Acting on Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa's instructions to intensify efforts and arrest outlaws, Major General Yusri Shakir, assistant interior minister for Bani Suwayf security, late last night led a large campaign on exit and entry points of Bani Suwayf, neighboring cities, and al-Lahun, al-Wasitah, and al-Fashn areas. Some 23 members of al-Jihad Organization, including prominent figures, were arrested.

The Bani Suwayf security chief told AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY correspondent that the security men grabbed the suspects who had failed to get past investigating personnel.

The assistant interior minister said the suspects were carrying antiregime leaflets and had devised a plan against vital installations while security men were preoccupied with security arrangements for the International Book Fair in Nasr city.

Investigations also revealed that some had escaped court rulings, were involved in sabotage against tourists and citizens, had committed acts of hooliganism, and caused panic in various cities in Bani Suwayf Governorate. The suspects have been referred to the prosecution office for investigation.

U.S. Measures Against Bosnia, Israel Urged

NC2701081293 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 16 Jan 93 p 16

["Toward Tomorrow" column by Husayn Fahmi]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush announced that he would deal Iraq a swift military blow because it challenged UN resolutions and warnings from the alliance states (the United States, France, and Britain). The U.S. Defense Department—the Pentagon—announced that U.S. troops are now fully prepared to carry out any military action ordered and to implement it immediately. It also said that U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton supports Bush's acts.

Last Wednesday [13 January] evening, American, French, and British warplanes carried out their military raids. An announcement was made that all targets were hit. The United States also threatened to land its marines.

We can understand from all of this that the United States and its allies carried out this strike to punish Iraq for two things: the infiltration by some Iraqi civilians of Kuwaiti territory and the seizing of some Iraqi weapons that they had been given permission to collect.

This shows that Washington uses double standards. It did not attack Serbia, although world public opinion called for that and although Serbia has committed ugly war crimes, occupied three- fourths of Bosnian territory, killed men and children, and set up camps to rape over 50,000 women and girls to implement an ethnic cleansing policy.

Washington did nothing to force Israel to implement Security Council Resolution 799 on returning the deportees, who are exposed to death by starvation or freezing because they live in sub-zero conditions, suffer snow storms and rain, and drink polluted water. Despite all this, Washington did nothing. Indeed, Israeli Ambassador in Washington Shoval said the United States will

not allow the Security Council to issue a resolution applying sanctions against Israel.

What injustice, discrimination, use of double standards, and application of a two-faced policy!

Clinton Accused of 'Overt Bias' Toward Israel

NC2701111193 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Jan 93 p 1

[Editorial: "'Clinton's' Anger"]

[Text] It seems that new U.S. President Bill Clinton decided to show anger towards the Arabs from the moment he took over the presidency of the world's only superpower. "Clinton" has opted to dash some Arabs' weak hopes that the new world leader would be fair and unbiased. "Clinton" sent his first tangible message to the Arab world when he launched two air strikes against Iraq on the pretext of implementing international law. "Clinton" has forgotten that international law is being "trampled on and squashed" in a country that neighbors Iraq but is called Israel. This name is the magic key that took over "Clinton's" mind and prompted him to declare his absolute support for Israel during the election campaign!

When "Clinton" dealt severe blows to Iraq and punished its people for crimes it did not commit, the new U.S. Administration decided to revive the Israeli economy, particularly the military industries that are suffering acute stagnation. The U.S. Administration has agreed to buy weapons from Israel for around half a billion dollars. The deal includes several pilotless reconnaissance planes! Are American factories incapable of manufacturing such planes or is the real purpose to support Israel?

"Clinton" then sent his second message to the Arabs. He declared his refusal to resume dialogue with the PLO, which seeks to establish peace, while Israel continues its policies of killing and deporting the Palestinian people. "Clinton" revealed his overt bias to Israel when he decided to appoint a leader of a pro-Israeli Jewish pressure group as a Middle East expert on the National Security Council, which reports directly to the President, draws up the regime's strategy, and plans U.S. policies. "Clinton" picked this Jewish expert to propound only Israel's views on Middle East problems. He has forgotten that Israel's arbitrary policies cause the problems in the region.

"Clinton's" messages to the Arab world do not bode well and are a bad start for U.S.-Arab relations under the new Administration. The Arabs must assume a united and clear position on dealing with the new U.S. Administration, which has outlined its direction and opted to back Israel, even at the expense of international law and the illusive new world order.

'Inertia' To Drive Clinton Policy 'for a Time'

NC2701114893 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 25 Jan 93 p 2

[From the "Comment" column by Husayn 'Abd-al-Wahid: "The Personal and the Objective"]

[Text] The basic problem facing new U.S. President Bill Clinton as he studies the Iraqi file is probably the Bush administration deliberately confusing the cards to justify its mistakes in tackling the Iraqi problem.

This showed the extent to which the Bush administration went to confuse between the "personal," represented by Bush's extreme hatred of Saddam Husayn, and the objective, the extent of the Iraqi regime's challenge to the international will and of the danger it poses to its neighbors and to stability in the region.

Because of this arbitrary confusion, Washington lost several of the factors of strength on which it depended in the "Desert Storm" operation in 1991, such as international military mobilization, international political backing, and the decisive cover of legitimacy given by the United Nations. Because of this confusion, Bush, in his last days in office, appeared as a "Western" leader exercising policy in an "Eastern" fashion. Emotions governed him more than facts and he was moved more by hopes than by unbiased scientific calculations. Things reached the point where U.S. global strategy fell to the level of vengeful acts and personal deceit.

So it was not surprising to see the recent U.S. attacks on Iraq not going beyond their target.

President Clinton is expected to follow in Bush's footsteps for a time, at least out of "inertia," but U.S. strategy must ultimately restore its "pragmatic" style and its realistic calculations. Then, many contradictions, for which some criticized Bush, such as that of "double standards," will disappear. This does not necessarily mean that Washington will become stricter with the Israelis and the Serbs, as it became with Saddam. The opposite might be true simply because politics do not know "the Catholic marriage" or "irrevocable divorce." Bush needed someone to remind him of the truism in the same way that many now need to have their attention drawn to it and to the question ultimately being one of "interests."

Arabs Warned Against Becoming 'U.S. Concern'

NC2201115193 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Jan 93 p 8

["Close-Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "This Powerful Applause"]

[Text] Russia supported the U.S. decision on the recent military strike against Iraq but this did not prevent officials there from concluding what might be the result of the United States singlehandedly implementing sanctions when and on whom it wishes.

Chairman Andronov of the Economic and International Relations Committee of the Russian Parliament concludes that approving the START II Treaty, according to which Russia gets rid of many of its missiles, could find it facing the same fate as Iraq—taking orders. If it does not obey, it will face the same fate as Iraq.

This is the danger of the military escalation in the Gulf. Many people tend to forget that the Arab region is slowly slipping out from under the supervision of the United Nations, its principles, and resolutions to become a purely U.S. concern. The United States confronts situations as it sees fit and through the resolutions it wants without being supervised or admonished in any conflicts and crises that might erupt. This frightens many Arab countries that do not agree fully with the United States, Britain, and France and that are being threatened with the same fate as Iraq under the pretext that they are violating Security Council resolutions. What would we Arabs and Egyptians do if the United States used the same methods in similar situations and crises?

This is the issue with which we should be occupying ourselves. As for Saddam's being a stupid, ignorant ruler, having miscalculated his accounts, and committed irresponsible acts, and the people of Iraq now paying the price, these facts are nothing new to us; there is no dispute over them. Things will remain as they are as long as Saddam and his regime are in power.

The Bush administration tried in every way to topple the regime in Iraq—at least it gave the impression it was trying—whether through the Iraqi opposition factions that proved to be incompetent and weak, through operations by central intelligence for appearances' sake, or through military measures to help the Kurds in the north and Shiites in the south, not because the United States is in love with the Kurds or the Shiites, as it is with Israel, but because the United States wants to quickly redraw the Iraqi map to make it a federal state. Saddam staying in power guarantees that this objective is realized in the shortest time. When his job is done it will be easy to get rid of and eliminate him.

The strong applause for striking Iraq, regardless of Saddam's crimes, is something we will soon regret a great deal. The United States was patient with Castro for 40 years, despite the problems he created, his threats, and his aggressive policies. It did not resort to striking him militarily, because the Latin American states objected to that despite their own quarrels with him. Why can't we learn the lesson?

Reportage on Romanian Delegation Visit To Egypt

Trade Agreement Reached

NC2201183193 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Jan 93 p 11

[Report by Ibtisam Sa'd]

[Excerpt] A $6-million reciprocal agreement, the first in 1993, has been reached with Romania. Egypt will import equipment, tractors, construction steel, white and colored glass sheets, and chemicals from Romania, and will export medicines, medical supplies, cotton, gloves, rice, and citrus to Romania. The deal will be implemented over a year, and it is renewable.

'Abd-al-Rahman Fawzi, director of the Reciprocal Agreement Department at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, announced the agreement. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Meets Counterpart

NC2401204093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa received Romanian Interior Minister George Ioan Danescu and his accompanying delegation at his office today. The Romanian minister is in Cairo to take part in the Police Day celebrations. The two ministers signed a cooperation agreement between the police services of both countries in combating narcotics.

Agreement Signed 26 Jan

NC2601164393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1511 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Romania today signed an agreement in principle to consolidate political, economic, and trade relations as well as a bilateral executive program for cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation. The agreement and the program were signed Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Isma'il Mubarak and Gheorghe Tinca, Romanian minister of state for foreign affairs. The Romanian minister said that his country stresses the need to find a just resolution to the Palestinian issue, adding that Romania condemned Israel's recent deportations and demands that no double standards are applied in implementing UN resolutions. He praised Egyptian-Romanian relations, noting that the agreement and the program signed today seek to strengthen bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

NC2701091593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—Romanian Interior Minister George Danescu left Cairo this morning for home following an official four-day visit during which he conveyed a verbal message from the Romanian president to President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Electricity, Energy Agreement Signed With Turkey

NC2601092493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1509 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Turkey today signed a protocol on technical cooperation in the field of electricity and energy. Under the agreement, both countries will cooperate in these fields, particularly on hydropower plants, the transfer and distribution of electricity between cities, and the technology of manufacturing giant power plants. Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, signed the protocol for Egypt and Energy Minister Ersin Faralyali for the Turkish side.

The protocol provides for the exchange of technicians and experts on the production and distribution of electricity and encourages private sector companies in both countries involved in manufacturing electrical equipment.

Turkish Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

NC2701085393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—Turkish Energy and Mining Minister Ersin Faralyali left Cairo early today following a five-day official visit during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Sidqi Welcomes Namibian Premier on Arrival

NC2601072693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—Namibian Prime Minister Hage Geingob and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this evening on a week-long official visit to Egypt at the invitation of Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi.

Sidqi was at the head of those who welcomed Geingob at the airport. Also receiving the Namibian prime minister were Manpower Minister 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq, Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz, and Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi.

The delegation accompanying the Namibian prime minister comprises Defense Minister Peter Mueshihange; Finance Minister Gerhard Hanekom; deputies to the ministers of energy, transportation, and tourism; the chairman of the Trade and Industry Chamber; and a representative of the South Western African People's Organization [SWAPO].

Prime Minister Sidqi welcomed the principal guest as one of the men who helped to achieve Namibia's independence. He said Egypt was among the first countries that supported Namibia and provided it with Egyptian experts in the fields of education and health. He added that the Egyptian forces were among the first to supervise the independence elections.

Noting that Namibia contains tremendous mineral wealth, covers a huge area, and has a large population, Sidqi said the talks will focus on economic and trade cooperation.

He said he and the visitor will discuss Namibia's need for Egyptian labor, experts, and technicians in the fields of mining and health to help the development process that has started there.

Officials Meet for Talks

NC2601144193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] The official talks between Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Namibian Prime Minister Hage Geingob began at the Prime Minister's Office this afternoon. Members of the Egyptian and Namibian delegations attended. The two sides discussed ways to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the economic, trade, and cultural fields. They also exchanged views on current African and international issues. The session lasted 90 minutes.

Prime Minister Sidqi held a luncheon in honor of the Namibian prime minister and his delegation.

Somali National Movement Figure Arrives, Comments

NC2601101693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0912 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—Abdirahman Tur, leader of the Somali National Movement [name as received], arrived in Cairo from Muscat early this morning on a five-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry.

In an arrival statement, the Somali guest said his visit is an opportunity to explain the situation in Somalia and to hold talks with Egyptian officials.

He praised the role played by Egypt within the UN forces in Somalia, saying the force is working to ease tension between the Somalis and other foreign forces. He also praised the aid provided by Egypt and other Arab countries, including food and medicine.

He said the Somali National Movement participated in the preliminary conference for reconciliation among the Somali factions as (?an observer) and will participate in the national reconciliation conference on 15 March with the same status.

He said: We welcome the UN forces presence in Somalia because they carry out a humanitarian task, which we appreciate. He added that some problems remain in Somalia but there are continuing efforts, at home and by friendly countries, to settle differences among the rival factions.

He said only one movement exists in northern Somalia—the Somali National Movement. There are 14 movements in the south.

The Somali guest was received by Assistant Foreign Minister Ibrahim Sha'ban.

Physicians Hold Rally To Support Deportees

NC2601220693 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
19 Jan 93 pp 7, 9

[Excerpts] A rally in Cairo on 15 January to support the Palestinian deportees recommended that the Egyptian Government break diplomatic ties with Israel. The rally was organized by the Physicians Association under the name: "Who Will Stand Up For the Palestinian Deportees." The rally called for a boycott of the peace talks, reconciliation between the Islamic movement and the Arab governments, support and donations for the jihad to liberate Palestine, and donations to help the Muslim forces in Bosnia-Hercegovina. A number of Islamic ulema and political figures spoke at the meeting, including: Dr. Ahmad al-Malat, the deputy guide of the Muslim Brotherhood; Dr. Yahya Isma'il, a professor at al-Azhar University; Dr. Jamal 'Abd-al-Salam, the head of the humanitarian relief committee that has just returned from a visit to the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur; and Dr. Khalid Muhammad Khalid, the deputy chief of the Palestine Affairs Department at the Arab League, who attended on behalf of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of his speech, Dr. al-Malat noted that the Palestinian deportees' situation is yet another tragedy to be added to the woes of Muslim ummah, which has lost its values and become weak and powerless in the eyes of its enemies. Dr. al-Malat asked: What are the Muslims doing about the sufferings of their fellow Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, where women are raped and men are slaughtered or burned alive? [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Malat added that there is no dialogue with the Jews except that of the gun. He said pursuing promises at the negotiating table from Madrid to Washington to Moscow will not bring the Palestinian cause a single step forward. Addressing the Arab and Muslim rulers, Dr. al-Malat said: Wake up from your slumber. We want to see the banners of dignity and pride fluttering over the Muslim countries. We want to see an Islamic Palestine, not the flag of Israel flying in the land of the great Nile. He added: O rulers: Do not prevent us from jihad; let the youth play their role. You have seen the sons of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] dealing painful blows to the Zionist enemy. Boycott the negotiations and push the youth to jihad. Do not repeat the tragedy of the 1948 defeat, when the Muslim Brotherhood's struggling battalions returned from Palestine only to be put in jails and detention camps.

Concluding his speech, the Muslim Brotherhood deputy guide quoted telegrams that read: O deportees; Be patient, for your place is in heaven. O palestinian people: We are with you wholeheartedly. [passage omitted]

'Crisis' Seen Brewing Between Government, al-Azhar

NC2601113593 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
22 Jan 93 p 7

[Article by Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din entitled: "The Coming Crisis With al-Azhar"]

[Text] A crisis is brewing between the state and al-Azhar [Egypt's top official Islamic learning] institution. Recent events in the People's Assembly were just a symptom of the crisis, which is likely to worsen and could surface at any moment. The government, as usual, is to blame.

Since the "nationalization" of al-Azhar in the 1960's, governments have used the institution as a tool to deceive the public and make it believe that Islam prospers in the country. Lately we read statements [by government officials] that: Egypt, the seat of al-Azhar, is more Islamic than Iran. It is as if the mere existence of al-Azhar in Egypt guarantees us a superior position among nations.

But al-Azhar, an institution with a legacy of scholarship and leadership, is fidgeting; it has had enough. It is no secret that al-Azhar's grand imam complains bitterly that the government-run media ignore his news and remarks. The grand imam, from a protocol point of view, is of a higher status than the information minister. The detail with which the media cover the latter's every move is nothing less than "numbing;" it is as if the man does not run the Information Ministry, but owns it. The grand imam is reduced to courting small-time journalists to "leak" some of his news to the national [government-run] press. In a recent interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH, the grand imam complained about this. Actually, the interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH was itself a government gimmick, because the government is trying to use al-Azhar to combat the so- called "extremist and terrorist elements."

The government does not forgive al-Azhar its firm opposition to the religious ruling by [Mufti of the Republic] Shaykh Tantawi in which he sanctioned usury in bank dealings. Al-Azhar's "excessive" sympathy with the Bosnia-Hercegovina issue was also frowned upon [by the government]. Still the government constantly tries to draw the largest possible political gain from al-Azhar.

The latest development involves plans for a meeting at the People's Assembly, one to be attended by the grand imam. In preparation, a meeting was held, attended by several venerable ulema. At the meeting a bombshell was dropped when two of the country's leading religious figures declared that the current war in Egypt is not one against extremism and terror, but against Islam itself.

From its own sources, the government was quick to gauge opinion in al-Azhar. Subsequently, the meeting with al-Azhar's grand imam was called off. In other words [the government said to al-Azhar]: You give us unquestioning support or farewell.

The [government's] crisis with al-Azhar will most likely escalate soon, adding to the government's list of troubles with the judiciary, universities, professional associations, and, of course, the people. The government's troubles are of its own making.

Libya

Report of New Poison Gas Plant Being Built

AU2501145793 Hamburg BILD in German 25 Jan 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Al-Qadhdhafi Is Building Poison Gas Factory"]

[Text] Libya's dictator Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is building a subterranean poison gas factory 65 km southeast of Tripoli near the town of Tarhuna. BILD learned this in diplomatic circles. The complex consists of 2 tunnels (150 meters long, 70 meters wide). Two Thai firms supplied the equipment. Four years ago, al-Qadhdhafi's poison gas plant in al-Rabitah, in the construction of which German companies (among others, Imhausen-Chemie) participated burned down.

Al-Qadhdhafi Address Praises Arab Unity

LD2701155993 Tripoli JANA in English 1433 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [January] 27, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the city of Marsa Matruh, congregated in large numbers, to receive the leader of the revolution who was returning from Cairo.

They lined the roads to salute and greet the leader and express their admiration for his huge and sincere efforts towards the realisation of total Arab unity and called for the need to achieve Arab unity and abolish all borders created by the colonialists to separate the people of the one Arab nation.

The masses fused with the leader of the revolution and hailed the life of the great al-Fatah revolution and its leader. During his meeting with the masses to exchange greetings the leader spoke saying:

O brothers, sons of the Arab desert, we are heading towards building up and towards development and construction. We are, with all our power, eliminating poverty, conquering backwardness, developing our Arab land and building our Arab land with free will and independence. But the enemies do not want this nation to build, to progress or to eliminate backwardness. All the efforts which we are presently exerting and which we exerted in the past and which will face us in the future are challenges that could possibly veto the future of the Arab nation and will deprive the Arab nation from unity, the means of power, the means of building up, development and construction.

But this nation is determined to challenge through its powerful resolve those enemies so that it can live in freedom and independence.

The Arab nation is determined, brothers, to confront the enemies and to face their challenges. We will not surrender. We will never submit. Our resolve is stronger than the conspiracies of the colonisers. Let the countries of the Western colonisers and the countries of the Western-coalition listen to the voice of the Arab people. Those countries who think they can isolate Libya and impose a ban on the Libyan people to isolate them from the nation, let them hear the voice of the people of Matruh, the sons of the Arab desert that challenge aggression and defy blockades and confront the enemies of Libya, the enemies of the Arab people and the Arab nation.

Let the embassies of the colonisers and the radios of the colonisers and the countries of the Western coalition hear your strong and powerful voice which is not frightened by the navies and does not fear the forces of colonisation and is not intimidated by blockades or sanctions.

O brothers, we are determined to confront the aggression and to face the challenges. We are determined to build our land and develop our land. We are determined to preserve our dignity, our independence, our freedom and defend our land and pride. O brothers, we will definitely triumph.

Morocco

Appeals Court Questions CDT Chairman al-Amawi

LD2601142693 Rabat MAP in English 1251 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Rabat, Jan 26 (MAP)—The Rabat Appeals Court questioned Monday [25 January] Noubir al-Amawi, the secretary general of the Democratic Labor Confederation (CDT) and member of the USFP [Socialist Union of Popular Forces] political bureau.

Al-Amawi who already served ten months out of a two year sentence for libelous charges against members of the Laraki government reappears Tuesday afternoon before the Appeals Court for further hearings.

Al-Amawi told the court Monday his trial last year by the first instance court in Rabat was "illegal" and "unfair" on grounds it was not brought about by court summons. He invoked territorial incompetence for the court, recalled how he was arrested and confirmed all preceding statements he made before the first instance court.

Contrary to what prosecution claims, the Spanish daily EL PAIS which carried words seen as slander by the government was not circulated in Morocco, he argued.

Civil Party barrister Ziane asked al-Amawi to precisely identify [word indistinct] and job of those he meant in his incriminated statement and list specific cases of theft and embezzlement substantiated by proper evidence.

The court said al-Amawi's arguments on residence of the EL PAIS correspondent were contradictory and insisted he was not appearing in court for opinion or political charges but for a prejudice lawsuit duly filed by a civil party. [passage indistinct]

Government Completes Plan for Dirham Convertibility

LD2301130193 Rabat MAP in English 1242 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Rabat, Jan. 23 (MAP)—Morocco has completed the setting in place of the regime of the dirham's convertibility for current international transactions as provided for by Article VIII of the International Monetary Fund regulations. The North African country sent a letter on January 21st to the IMF on the acceptance of the article.

The convertibility entails the lifting of any payment restriction for the transactions between resident and nonresident people. It comes as a result of the liberalization process and economic overture embarked on by Morocco since the past decade.

It was also made possible thanks to the adjustment of internal and external finance accounts and to the accumulation of a certain amount of hard currency likely to cover the payment for international transactions. Auto-processing Division

Tunisia

Minister Explains Bill To Establish Media Bureau

LD2601195293 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies held a general session. The deputies observed a minute of silence andsaid prayers for the late Hedi Noueira. Afterward the Chamber approved a number of draft bills concerning some agreements with friendly states relating primarily to developing and strengthening economic relations and encouraging and protecting investments.

The Chamber also looked at a draft bill on setting up a national bureau on radio and television broadcasting. Communications Minister Habib Lazreg explained to our reporter the purpose of setting up this bureau.

[Begin Lazreg recording] As you know, the telecommunications sector as a whole—the radio, television, and postal and communication services—occupies a prominent place in the development of national economy and society. To give this sector an impetus to fulfill these functions in the best way possible, the government has decided to set up a National Broadcasting Bureau [NBB] to pay particular attention to radio and television broadcasting throughout the republic, and to give this sector flexibility and speed of action in order to guarantee quality of transmission.

You also know that radio and television transmissions in our country are quite good; radio covers the whole country, and television covers about 95 percent of it. But many problems exist, especially with respect to the quality and interruption of transmissions, about which our people in the south complain.

To deal with these problems, and to prevent interference due to foreign radio and television transmissions, which in themselves black out reception in various parts of the republic, it has been decided to set up the NBB to fulfill its functions in these fields. It will have the freedom to act and take decisions quickly. This is not possible under the present administrative system. Naturally, once the NBB is established, this will be possible, because there will be more flexibility and it will have the opportunity to react more quickly to the technical needs of radio and television, because they are developing very fast in today's world. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Bahrain

Information Minister Meets Visiting Syrian Minister

JN2701163393 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Manama, 27 Jan (WAKH)—An official round of talks was held here today between a Bahraini team, headed by Information Minister Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, and a visiting Syrian delegation headed by Dr. Najah al-'Attar, minister of culture and national guidance. [passage omitted]

During their talks, the officials stressed the need to increase cooperation in the fields of culture and art, and to exchange official visits in the areas of art and archaeology, as well as printed material and publications in the fields of art and information. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Turkish Prime Minister Concludes Visit

Demirel News Conference

TA2601125393 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report by Ertugrul Bulent Danaci]

[Text] At official talks this morning, the Turkish and Kuwaiti delegations were headed by Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti prime minister and heir apparent. The current situation in the Gulf region and the Palestinian and Bosnian problems were the primary topics discussed.

Speaking at a news conference after the three-hour-long talks, Demirel said that Turkey and Kuwait have a very long and deep-rooted closeness. Stressing that the Kuwaiti people are the friends and brothers of the Turkish nation, Demirel said: We have stood by Kuwait through good times and bad. As a matter of fact, the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait was received with indignation by the Turkish public, and Turkey stood by Kuwait from the very onset of the crisis. Demirel further expressed his pride when observing Kuwait's success in healing the wounds of the war. He added that the culmination of these positive developments will lie in the Kuwaiti POW's return to their country.

Demirel continued: The crisis that emerged with the occupation of Kuwait and subsequent developments have shown us that peace and stability in the region should be viewed as a whole and that developments in one part of the region greatly affect other parts as well. These developments have also shown us that Turkey and Kuwait have joint interests. The aftereffects of the Gulf crisis are still continuing. The lack of security and the uncertainty in the region have not been eliminated. This situation necessitates more contacts and consultations between our countries. Solidarity is essential among the regional countries that believe in international legality and favor peace and stability in the region. Demirel noted that the Turkish delegation came to Kuwait to consolidate this solidarity and that there are also possibilities for developing bilateral cooperation. Stressing that this solidarity and cooperation will be beneficial for the region as well, Demirel added that both sides have the political will to achieve these goals.

Demirel later replied to reporters' questions. A reporter reminded Demirel that both sides talked about harmony and asked on which issues concrete agreements were reached. In reply, Demirel said that the uncertainty in the Gulf region continues but that Turkey and Kuwait are determined not to allow renewed turmoil and disturbances in the region. He added that the two countries are definitely determined to cooperate to put an end to the suffering of the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina who are being oppressed, killed, and raped. Demirel said: What will the free world decide? Will it continue to observe the developments or will it decide to intervene? Whatever the decision, the two countries have decided to extend aid to Bosnia-Hercegovina. The nature of this aid will soon become apparent.

Demirel stated that Kuwait fulfilled its duties to repair the damages suffered by Turkey as a result of the Gulf war and that it is continuing its five-year obligation of an annual $1-billion allocation to the defense industry. He noted that Turkey's highway links with the Gulf, which were severed as a result of the war, will be reestablished and that efforts are being exerted to make sure that trucks transporting goods reach Kuwait in the shortest possible time. He added that Kuwait is also exerting efforts in that direction.

Demirel said that Kuwait might become a partner in the Turkish oil refineries, whose privatization is being considered. He added that the reduced prices given to Turkey by Saudi Arabia for the purchase of liquefied petroleum gas have also been requested from Kuwait. Stressing that the two countries may cooperate in the fields of banking, tourism, and defense industry, Demirel said that Turkey's contracting services, which stretch from the Russian Federation to Pakistan, can also serve Kuwait. Pointing out that Turkey asked that the Turkish contracting work that was left unfinished in Kuwait be speeded up, Demirel added that a request was also made for the Kuwaiti Fund to extend financial support to the Istanbul Kirazlidere potable water project and Botas [Pipeline and Petroleum Transport Corporation] Bursa-Canakkale gas pipeline.

Demirel, who has concluded his contacts in Kuwait, is expected to leave Kuwait for Saudi Arabia at any moment.

Talks Called 'Constructive'

LD2601212193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1352 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 26 Jan (KUNA)—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel affirmed here today the depth of relations between Kuwait and Turkey, and described the talks which he conducted with Kuwaiti officials during the visit as constructive. [passage omitted]

He said that the cooperation relations between the two countries do not only serve the common interests, but go beyond that to a larger role in contributing toward achieving security and stability, referring by that to the talks he had with his highness the amir of the State of Kuwait which complement those which the amir of Kuwait had with Turkish President Turgut Ozal last year and which centered on the issues of the hour, the recent developments in the region, the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and lastly bilateral relations between the two countries.

Concerning Turkey's role during the invasion period and the war for liberating Kuwait, its closure of the oil pipelines from Iraq, and the ramifications of that on the Turkish economy, Demirel pointed out that the region has gone through critical conditions, but Turkey did not hesitate to take part and sided with right, and with the owner of right, for achieving security and stability. [passage omitted]

Demirel pointed out that during the official talks he held today with the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah, agreement was reached on finding ways to remove land transport difficulties, since trucks have not been able to pass through Iraqi territory after the invasion, which has affected food items as the trip takes a lot longer than it did in the past.

Demirel said that among the issues discussed was that of the Kurds and the assistance offered to them, the issue of those living in southern and northern Iraq, in addition to the Palestine question, the reinstatement of the Palestinians' legitimate rights, the return of the deportees, and urging the Israeli Government to allow them to return to their country.

In reply to a question on Turkey's stance regarding the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners, the Turkish prime minister demanded that the Iraqi regime release Kuwaiti and other prisoners who had been detained by that regime, stating that Turkey would do its utmost to secure the release of those prisoners as soon as possible.

Demirel said that Kuwait would compensate Turkey for the losses it had incurred during the Gulf crisis by contributing a billion dollars to the Turkish Defense Fund over the next five years.

Demirel said that one of the subjects on which discussion was focused was that of increasing trade exchanges between the two countries—before the invasion it was $100 million compared with today's $5 million dollars—by way of finding an air route as an alternative to the land transport route.

The second subject was in the field of oil processing, by-products industries, and privatization. There are refineries in this field, in which capital from both countries can cooperate in Turkey in addition to benefiting from existing refineries to market their output in Europe.

Demirel asked his Kuwaiti conterpart to increase by 10 percent the supply of PJ material produced from oil, as Turkey now buys it from the Kingdom at a reduced price, and to provide the necessary help to secure the increase and a reduction in price.

He made clear that several projects were discussed, most important of which was that of electricity generation in the Subayah region, in addition to two projects in Turkey: the Istanbul drinking water and the gas pipeline. [passage omitted]

Iran's Need for Nuclear Weapons Questioned

TA2601194193 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report by Ertugrul Bulent Danaci from Kuwait]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Answering a question on Iran at a news conference in Kuwait before his departure for Saudi Arabia, Demirel said: What will Iran do with its nuclear weapons, against whom will it use its nuclear weapons when even superpowers are trying to destroy their nuclear weapons?

Demirel stated that Iran is a great country and that it has good relations with Turkey, and added that he does not believe Iran will use the trust shown in it to harm its neighbors. [passage omitted]

Departure Reported

LD2601142293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1245 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 26 Jan, KUNA—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel departed this afternoon after completing an official two-day visit to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Premier Comments on 'Aziz Remarks, Press Freedom

LD2701095693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0836 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 27 Jan (KUNA)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, has affirmed the need for Kuwait to open up in its foreign policy to put forward the Kuwaiti cause at the Arab and international levels.

In a special interview published today by AL-QABAS, Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Sabah described the difficult conditions Kuwait is experiencing as "critical,"

pointing out that the national unity of Kuwait is "the guard and our impregnable fence, and all of us are responsible for maintaining and deepening it, because all of us are in the same boat and all of us are sailors in it."

He added that "the conditions in the region are serious and will not tolerate provoking," that the Iraqi regime has not abandoned its greed, that Saddam is still threatening Kuwait, and that what happened over the past two weeks is evidence confirming that.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah pointed out that what Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister of the Iraqi regime, has said—that "the chapter of Kuwait is closed"—does not represent "anything definite, and what does he means by the chapter of Kuwait is closed...." [passage omitted]

He pointed out that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a number of other ministers will soon visit Arab and international capitals, as will parliamentary and public delegations, within the framework of Kuwait's openness in its foreign policy to put forward Kuwait's cause at the Arab and international levels.

At the local level, Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah expressed his satisfaction over the cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities, emphasizing that the coordination between the government and the national assembly is "complete."

His highness also reemphasized that no one was above the law when it comes to embezzling public funds. He said every citizen should be reassured that the government is keen to protect public funds and punish those who abuse them.

He expressed his hope that no one would ever suspect that the government wished to protect this or that person, no matter who they are or what position or affiliations they have, against accountability or against paying the price for their violation of the law. He added that everyone should rest assured that anyone who misappropriated any funds would be brought to book. He did urge, however, that not all efforts should be devoted to this issue, since the law will take its natural course, and that attention should also be turned to other issues.

Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah praised the Kuwaiti press, saying that we are proud that our press is free to write (and publish) whatever they wish. He pointed out, however, that some newspapers sometimes abuse this freedom and thereby harm the interests of Kuwait.

He called on the press to keep in mind the public interest when exercising this freedom, pointing out that there are countries which believe that the government is dictating to the newspapers what to write and what not to write, which is absolutely untrue. At times, he said, we ourselves are not happy with what is being written, but this is what freedom of the press means.

UN Envoy on Iraqi Threat, Need for 'Changing Regime'

NC2701074493 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations, by Fawzi al-Jindi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Jindi] Mr. Ambassador: Let us start this dialogue with Kuwait's moves in the international organization on the increase in the number of peacekeeping forces on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border.

[Abu-al-Hasan] I thank the Voice of the Arabs for its interest and for contacting Kuwait's envoy in New York. The Kuwaiti delegation has been busy for several days, particularly after the UN secretary general issued his report asking to increase the number of observers from 300 to 3,645—three regiments—and to change the forces' mandate so that their work will not be limited to recording violations, but will include preventing violations and defending themselves while performing their duties. When this report was issued, we found the secretary general had responded positively to the requirements of the critical situation on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border created by the Iraqi regime's continuing aggressive policy and its lack of respect for UN resolutions, in particular the presence of the observer force on the border. We are active with Security Council members and seek to have the Council issue a resolution approving the secretary general's report. We hope the Security Council will issue a new resolution in the next two days under the Charter's Chapter Seven, approving the secretary general's recommendations. We hope the secretary general's report will be a clear message to the Iraqi regime that the United Nations wants the relationship to be between the international organization and Iraq, not as Baghdad wants, between the United States and Iraq. The cause of the conflict was the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. Iraq seeks to depict it as a conflict between the West or the United States and Iraq.

[Al-Jindi] Ambassador, in light of the recent tense situation in the Gulf region, the departure of the Bush administration and the advent of Bill Clinton's administration, and Saddam Husayn's attempts to open a new page with Clinton despite Clinton's declaration that he will pursue his predecessor's policy toward Iraq, do you, as a Kuwaiti official in the United Nations, believe that Saddam Husayn's future actions will differ from those during Bush's term?

[Abu-al-Hasan] I do not believe any country respects Iraq's promises or pledges. This regime has proved that it cheats, deceives, and maneuvers. Even if it is holding out the olive branch now, neither the Security Council nor the international system, certainly not the West, wants to believe what the Iraqi regime says. They want deeds. We have experienced Iraqi pledges and promises broken by the Iraqi regime through its practices. Deeds are needed now. For example,

Iraq continues to reiterate what it terms its historical claim to Kuwait. It continues to refuse to attend the meetings of the demarcation committee and to refuse to accept the results of its work. How, then, can the situation be calmed and dialogue restored, when there is a categorical rejection of the cause of the conflict? The cause of the conflict is the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait, nothing else. As long as Iraq's stand on the cause remains the same—it refuses to accept the resolution—the problem will continue and the olive branch with which the Iraqi regime seeks to deceive the world will remain mere words and wishes.

[Al-Jindi] Do you believe Kuwait is still threatened by Saddam Husayn or are the recent attacks on Baghdad by the United States, leader of the international coalition, a source of security for Kuwait against any measures taken by the Iraqi regime?

[Abu-al-Hasan] There are two kinds of security. There is the physical, the absence of violations on the border, and the psychological, which reflects what is in hearts; an absence causes instability. We do not believe there is physical or psychological security. The Iraqi regime reiterates its intentions from time to time. There was relative calm in the region immediately after the war to liberate Kuwait, but as soon as this relative calm was seen as normal, Iraq's military activities resumed, as we saw in the past two weeks. It penetrated Kuwaiti territory and dispatched troops in civilian clothes to enter Kuwaiti territory. The psychological instability is caused by the continuing Iraqi claims. This is more destabilizing than military operations, which can be confronted physically. Psychological actions and this regime's ambitions can be met only by changing the regime. I don't believe Iraq's threat is limited to Kuwait, but see it as a threat to the region as a whole. The Iraqi regime has persisted in its expansionist policy and its greed will not be limited to Kuwait, but will include the other countries in the region. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Yeltsin's Upcoming Visit

PM2601110993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jan 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Sabah al-Ahmad Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Russia's Position on Iraq Has Not Changed"]

[Text] Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has confirmed the report about Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Kuwait at the end of this month.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the visit stems from an invitation which Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah sent to the Russian president in the past.

The foreign minister expressed his happiness at and welcome of the visit, emphasizing the depth of the bilateral relations binding Kuwait and Russia.

The Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that the talks with President Yeltsin will focus on discussing the current situation in the region in addition to bilateral relations and other issues of common concern.

On Kuwait's assessment of the present Russian position on current conditions in the Gulf, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the Russian position has not changed, emphasizing that Kuwait appreciates this position, which supports the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Following the recent raids launched by the coalition forces against Iraq in implementation of the international resolutions, Russia said that the time had come for the Security Council to discuss Iraq's situation again. And it considered Iraq the party responsible for tension in the region because of its procrastination in implementing Security Council resolutions. But it stressed the need for "the reaction to be proportionate and in line with the agreed resolutions."

National Debt Totals 5.6 Billion Dinars

LD2701161493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 27 Jan (KUNA)—Dr. Nasir al-Sani', member of the financial and economic committee at the National Assembly and member of the operations bureau at the Kuwait Central Bank, said the National Assembly's agreement yesterday on extending the time limit for registering the lending financial centers of the Central Bank for three months will provide more time to study the matter, especially since it is connected with large commitments from public funds.

In a statement to KUNA, he said that the state's present commitment in the indebtedness program amounts to 5.6 billion Kuwaiti dinars distributed over the 20 coming years, in addition to the interest. He pointed out that the law which the financial and economic committee is reformulating will ensure the availability of more liquidity, stimulate the Kuwaiti economy, and safeguard the citizens' rights in public funds. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Turkish Prime Minister Demirel Arrives for Talks

LD2601192193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1635 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Jan (SPA)—His excellency the prime minister of Turkey, Suleyman Demirel, arrived this afternoon in Riyadh for an official visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Meets King Fahd

LD2601232293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2145 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Jan (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, and His Excellency Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel of Turkey, held a meeting this evening in the royal office at the al-Yamamah Palace. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

TA2701140093 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Report by Kandemir Alpan from Riyadh]

[Text] Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel held a news conference in Riyadh today. Opening the news conference by expressing his pleasure over being on holy territory, Demirel remarked, however, that the great sorrow experienced at this time has cast a shadow over this feeling of well-being. The prime minister described the horrible assassination of journalist Ugur Mumcu as savagery and added: The objective of those who perpetrated this murder is clear. They want to create internal unrest and strife. They want to be able to say: Where is the stability you have been talking about?

Demirel continued: What was done to Mumcu was cruel and despicable. But, they will certainly account for their deeds before the law. We have important clues and I hope that the incident will be resolved in a short time. The ambush has been uncovered. The ambush they wish to set for Turkey has been discovered. The grief we feel in the face of this incident and the common reaction displayed as a nation are also the manifestation of our unity and solidarity.

Demirel then commented on changing global balances and new situations in the world. Stressing that Turkey, in the north, and Saudi Arabia, in the south and in the Gulf, have become centers of interest, the prime minister noted that accelerated activity has been observed in Turkish foreign policy as a result of this. He said: We have no difficulty in making Turkey's voice heard in these new situations.

Demirel emphasized that Turkey, in the north, and Saudi Arabia, in the south, constitute the guarantor of peace and stability in the Balkans, the Caucasus, the Central Asian republics, the Middle East, and the Gulf countries. Demirel also praised the efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia, which uses its natural wealth to serve peace and its people. Explaining that Saudi Arabia is able to live with the Western world though it is a Muslim country, the prime minister declared: There is no reason for Muslims to fear the world. It is also necessary to learn to live with others.

Referring to his meeting with King Fahd last night, Demirel recounted that a beneficial meeting was held on Bosnia-Hercegovina, Palestine, the Caucasus, the Balkans, Karabakh, and the Gulf, adding that the two countries concur on the prevention of similar incidents in the future. Demirel stresses that King Fahd and he share either identical or very similar views on all these issues.

There are many areas of possible joint investment between Turkey and Saudi Arabia which will benefit both sides, Demirel explained, noting that the same thing can be undertaken either individually or jointly in the Central Asian republics.

In his news conference, the prime minister also replied to reporters' questions. In response to a question on the Mumcu assassination, Demirel said that there is no cause for panic and the state has everything under control. No one should expect a new wave of murders in the big cities, he assured.

Answering a question on the subject of hajj, Demirel recalled that Saudi Arabia, on principle, accepts 1,000 hajj candidates for every 1 million people from Muslim countries. Within this framework, Demirel remarked, approximately 57,000 Turkish pilgrims are expected to be accepted for hajj this year. The prime minister went on to say that during his contacts in Riyadh, he asked Saudi officials to raise this number to 100,000. Turkey, which occupies a prominent place within the Islamic world, has the right to submit such a demand, Demirel stressed and expressed the belief that Saudi Arabia will take this request into consideration within its means.

Asked whether the matter of Turkey selling F-16 fighter planes to Middle East countries was brought up during his visit, the prime minister retorted that Turkey has not yet sold these planes to any country and therefore the subject was not discussed.

Recalling that he held detailed talks with King Fahd in Riyadh especially on Bosnia-Hercegovina, Demirel stated that Turkey is awaiting the outcome of the Geneva talks and will accordingly pursue a new policy envisaging an extensive aid program. He added that Turkey expects friendly countries' support on this issue.

Demirel is now attending a dinner hosted in his honor by Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Saudi deputy prime minister and defense and aviation minister. In the afternoon, Demirel will proceed from Riyadh to Medina, where he will tour holy sites. He will visit the Ka'bah in the evening.

Accompanying Demirel on his Gulf tour are Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, State Minister Cavit Caglar, and Agriculture and Village Affairs Minister Necmettin Cevheri.

King Fahd Sends Message to Afghan President

LD2601194893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques and the king of Saudi Arabia, has sent the following congratulatory telegram to Kabul addressed to esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani on the occasion of his election as president of Afghanistan:

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan: I am delighted to have this opportunity to convey my sincere congratulations on the occasion of your election as president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. I wish you good health and success in serving the fraternal people of Afghanistan and the realization of your lofty objectives. God be with you.

Afghan Ministers Praise King's Invitation to Talks

LD2701133093 Riyadh SPA in English 1241 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Jeddah, Jan 27, SPA—Afghan Information Minister Mohammad Siddique Chakri welcomed the invitation of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud to the leaders of the Afghan jihad to meet in the Kingdom to review means for the settlement of their dispute.

This invitation reflects the great attention given by the monarch to the Afghan problem, he said in a press statement. The Kingdom has earned a great respect among the Afghan mojahedin, he added.

On the other hand, Afghan Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Hadi Hadi said the Kingdom is keen on realization of stability in Afghanistan. It is hoped that the Afghan leaders will settle their dispute through dialogue and peaceful negotiations, he said in a similar press statement.

King Pays for Building Mosques in Iraqi Kurdish Areas

LD2401221293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2142 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Out of his concern for God's houses and developing them, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has undertaken the expense of building two mosques in the towns of Halabjah and Chamchamal (northeast of Iraq in the governorate of al-Sulaymaniyah) in Iraqi Kurdistan.

His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, ambassador of King Fahd-Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, has sent the donation to Mulla Muhammad Amin al-Chamchamali, chairman of the branch of the Kurdish Islamic Society in Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Receives Ulema, Shaykhs in Riyadh

LD2601132493 Riyadh SPA in English 1246 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 26, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh today a group of ulema and shaykhs. King Fahd also received groups of citizens who came to greet him. The royal audience was attended by princes.

Envoy Expresses Optimism About U.S. Stance on Bosnia

LD2601222593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Kingdom's ambassador to the United States, has restated the concern felt by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, about the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the Palestinian citizens deported from their territory by the Israeli authorities. He stated that in the next two days he will discuss these two issues with senior officials of the U.S. Administration.

In a press statement in Washington, he said: I was instructed by the custodian of the two holy mosques to discuss the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina and that of the deported brother Palestinians. He added: The custodian of the two holy mosques thinks calm action and big results are preferable to talking big without achieving results or without displaying a determination to implement decisions.

His highness the ambassador referred to a meeting he held with the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, and said the U.S. Administration's stance, as presented by the U.S. official, is positive. He expressed his optimism regarding the U.S. Administration's stance on Bosnia-Hercegovina and said: We are optimistic about the U.S. Administration's stance.

His highness said that international intervention is needed to stop crimes being committed against the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and that the citizens of Bosnia-Hercegovina should be permitted to acquire defensive weapons to defend themselves and their security.

Yemen

Prime Minister Receives Message From Russian Counterpart

JN2301160693 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas received at noon today (Visnosh Shiruskiy), the charge d'affaires of the Russian Federation in Sanaa, who handed him a message from his Russian counterpart on bilateral cooperation issues.

Talks at the meeting dealt with issues relating to the development of relations of cooperation in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

Presidential Council Discusses Armed Forces Reorganization

JN2601174893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The Presidential Council met today under its chairman, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the ministers of finance, interior and security, and defense, the Armed Forces chief of staff, and senior Defense Ministry officials also attended.

Discussion during the meeting addressed a number of issues and developments on the national, regional, and international levels. Topics related to the efforts to build roads and [word indistinct] development were also discussed.

The council adopted a number of measures aimed at reorganizing and developing the structure of the Armed Forces and Security Forces to improve their efficiency and ability to fulfill their defense and security tasks and protect the country's sovereignty, security, and stability.

The council also reviewed the outcome of the visit made by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, to fraternal Saudi Arabia during which he conveyed a message from the brother Presidential Council chairman to his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, the custodian of the two holy mosques. The message concerned bilateral relations and issues of concern to the two fraternal countries.

The Presidential Council expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the visit and the talks the minister of state for foreign affairs held with the brothers in Saudi Arabia. It underlined interest in boosting fraternal ties between the two neighboring countries to serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples and the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Meets Military Officials

JN2701060593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting attended by several fighter officers of the Air Force and Air Defense.

The meeting was attended by fighter Engineer Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, and fighter pilot Staff Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense.

Ramadan Interviewed on Prospects for U.S. Relations

JN2701100893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Jan 93 p 20

[Interview with Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan by Sa'd al-Silawi in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Silawi] There is no doubt that Iraq has stood fast in the face of all the challenges it encountered over the last 30 months, and that the Iraqi leadership has lived through this experience. It is a known fact that those who act, commit mistakes. With this in mind, are there specific mistakes and is there a new Iraqi policy?

[Ramadan] Are these the questions you will pose during the interview?

[Al-Silawi] There will be other questions.

[Ramadan] First of all, we feel somewhat satisfied. This satisfaction stems from the fact that the domestic and popular front, even public opinion, if such a thing exists, know more about the dimensions of the conspiracy and designs of the aggressors. Much of their falsehoods and claims, whether in terms of their motives for the aggression or the objectives they seek to attain from it, have become exposed. These greatly differ from the declared objectives.

We believe that the citizen is aware that the causes, preparations, and intentions behind the aggression are linked to facts and incidents on the ground and that steadfastness has not come from a void. This stand, in spite of all the interference that has taken place, would not have materialized had there not been an acceptable level of popular support for the leadership's policy and for the policy of his excellency the president. The magnitude of the military, political, and economic conspiracy and aggression is unprecedented. We believe that those who planned this conspiracy, headed by Bush as well as all his servile Arab rulers in the region were certain—and even Iraq's friends were somewhat certain—that all these preparations and mobilization of forces would wipe out Iraq since there was nothing to indicate otherwise. Although two and a half years have passed since the imposition of the blockade, which is unprecedented in history in terms of its immorality and inhumanity, they found that Iraq is once again rising. They also sensed that there is a resurgence in the Arab state of affairs, particularly on the popular level, although this has not been clearly confirmed. In any case, time is in favor of steadfastness throughout the entire Arab arena. The Arab people need a model to emulate. They need a model of steadfastness to enhance their confidence in themselves and their confidence in the Arab individual, who has been the target of the conspiracy for many decades. Such confidence is difficult to rebuild. It cannot be done by merely raising a specific slogan or adopting a certain stand. The recovery of the Arab citizen, if one can use this expression, takes place slowly in view of the impact of the conspiracy and the magnitude of the aggression. However, we are not pessimistic about this slow recovery because we look at the ultimate result. What is important is that there is an enhancement in the Arab citizen's spirit of readiness, resolve, and maturity based on understanding, objectivity, and dialogue. As you well know, the information conspiracy is no less important than the military conspiracy, and even the economic conspiracy. Those who confronted Iraq had also confronted the nation's conscience and its present and future. The saying that hatred can lead the blind does apply here to the enemies. This can be seen through their actions over recent months, starting with the so-called no-fly zones imposed on some parts of Iraq, a decision the allies enacted after scorning the international organization, which is a tool in their hand, and in which they have followers. They did not even call for a UN Security Council meeting and did not discuss this issue. The three countries passed the resolution as if the law of jungle now reigns supreme. They deprived Iraq of the right to exercise its sovereignty over parts of nothern Iraq. This was the beginning of unethical behavior, or proof of the high-handedness that the big powers, particularly the United States, started to exercise, imagining that they can do whatever they want with people so long as they possess the power. In the past, they used to act under cover of international legitimacy, and we know how it was exploited and how it was used. A state of frustration surfaced as a result of this, even in the ranks of the international public opinion. In spite of all this, the official Arab reaction has not been commensurate with the minimum level that is acceptable. We have heard official reactions from outside the Arab arena. In spite of this, they know deep down in their hearts and conscience that there is injustice and that someone has been targeted. This will help them reach a better state of affairs later on, God willing. The allies' decision was followed by actions and encroachments which reached the point of confrontation. However, the most important thing that emerged from all this is that it portrayed the allies, particularly the United States, as arrogant, aggressive, and unjust. They faced Iraq with hatred while Iraq faced them with cool nerves, tackled the incident with composure and without emotional reaction, and with confident military and political action when needed. From this context, came the Iraqi initiative on 19 January 1993.

[Al-Silawi] Do you mean the cease-fire?

[Ramadan] Yes, and it is a purely political move to promote any opportunity or possibility for dialogue to replace oppression and premeditated aggression. This is certainly better. If the other party knows how to deal with the cease-fire initiative, this will reflect positively on all parties and peace will prevail. This is certain. We believe that there will be a growing understanding of the continued evil intentions. For our part, we will deepen our people's steadfastness, because when the people have faith in their cause as an end and a means to attain this end, then they will certainly demonstrate a greater ability to hold their ground.

[Al-Silawi] Before I come to the Iraqi goodwill initiative, I want to discuss how the leadership views the causes of President Bush's defeat and the victory of his Democratic rival, Bill Clinton, despite the achievements made by President Bush for his nation, considering that President Bush terminated the socialist-communist camp and prevented its superiority over the United States. In brief, President Bush has given America what nobody else has. We find it difficult to understand this equation, but how do you view it?

[Ramadan] The fact is that we have never made plans depending on the rise or fall of this or that president in any country, whatever his relation to us or to international politics. Our plans are drawn up to develop our potential and make exceptional efforts to enable our good people to play their pan-Arab role. The fall of Bush, however, cannot be considered a natural event, and can only be viewed as a result of an overall situation. People say that what caused Bush's fall was not a particular person or his confrontation with Iraq and the Gulf war; rather it was the economy that did this. They forget that we cannot separate economic, military, and foreign policies, because they are all interlocked. Bush's fall was caused by his domestic policy on the economy and services, the low development rates, and the spreading of more diseases and delinquency. The United States occupies the first place in domestic and foreign indebtedness, drugs, and AIDS. It also occupies a leading position in lack of security and stability and human dignity. The imbalance between foreign policy and economic and military policy created these contradictions. Therefore, this picture that is full of contradictions cannot achieve stability, because there has to be some balance between the economic and military aspects and between domestic and foreign policies. Any contradiction can only lead to conflagration. Some media organs, supported by Zionists, have managed to depict Bush as the victor in the Gulf war. But how did he achieve victory, and over whom? The entire world ganged up against a nation of 18 million people. The very fact of their buildup against Iraq is a defeat.

Despite all this, they have managed to prove that they achieved victory. So how come that one year after this ongoing battle, Bush suffers an unprecedented defeat in the history of U.S. presidential elections? We should bear in mind that Clinton is unknown internationally and is not even among the top echelons of his party. This is proof of Iraqi leverage and steadfastness. Had Iraq collapsed, I would say, Bush would have won the elections.

That is why we consider the economic aspect a result, rather than a cause. What caused Bush's fall is Iraq's steadfastness. This led many people to wonder about the cause of the war, and to start asking whether it really was the question of Kuwait. There are many examples of possibilities unrelated to the perspective of Kuwait's return to Iraq, but related to a perspective of colonialism and occupation. Also, other possible causes are not related to pan- Arabism, a one nation, and part of the whole. However, the United States and the Security Council did nothing. People are now asking these questions and drawing contrasts. In the past, the size of propaganda and preparation prevented many people from drawing such contrasts. Bush's fall is major evidence that the injustice done to Iraq and the nation is very great and derogates all slogans that were raised and humiliates and disgraces all those who joined the other camp.

I certainly believe that Bush did not achieve victory in his war, not even in the traditional sense, since the direct objective of Iraq's collapse has not been achieved. As a result, what happened reflected negatively on the U.S. economy, and reflected negatively on U.S. international relations.

We also think that Bush's fall was natural, despite the fact that not all things are taking place in a natural way in this age, including the way the aggression was orchestrated and the way the blockade has been maintained on Iraq so far.

[Al-Silawi] I will go back to the initiative launched by the Revolution Command Council [RCC] on 19 January in which it announced an Iraqi cease-fire. How long will this initiative continue, particularly after two raids were carried out in the north while Iraq is still maintaining its initiative?

[Ramadan] First of all, let it be known that we did not launch the initiative on the basis of information or contacts with the new administration or with Clinton to facilitate his mission. That is incorrect. This subject of contacts or information was raised more than once but it is incorrect. As I said, Clinton was away from foreign policy, and he is not a prominent player in this field. The RCC initiative was launched for several reasons. It was launched to entrench the Iraqi citizen's conviction that his leadership does not spare any peaceful opportunity without exploiting it within the limits of interests and sovereignty, and in a manner that prevents a fifth column or enemies saying that things would have been different had Iraq taken a different course. Furthermore, most of the good people in the Arab arena on the popular and official levels, who are not part of the plot, were

hoping for an Iraqi initiative. They did not have anything in mind regarding the nature of the initiative, but they were hoping for an initiative. This initiative fulfills their wish, and this is something about which we care. Such an initiative provides better circumstances in support of Iraq in the confrontation. Regardless of the intentions of the new U.S. Administration and the new President in particular, this initiative will only activate and encourage the positive readiness of the new administration to deal with the situation in a new spirit that is completely different from the previous spirit, especially since Clinton has announced more than once that there is nothing personal or negative concerning Iraq, and that there is no personal grudge against the Iraqi leaders as was the case with Bush. There are circumstances that can be utilized if there is goodwill. Hence, this initiative was launched. At the same time, we know that while this initiative pleased all the good ones, friends, and Arabs who want peace, it annoyed the Zionists and the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation. Therefore, provocative attempts were bound to be carried out to prevent this initiative from moving forward.

[Al-Silawi] Did you take this into consideration?

[Ramadan] Yes, it was taken into consideration. This indicates that we are acting objectively and calmly. We follow up and shed light on these attempts. In some cases when we say something, the U.S. Administration confirms it a few hours later, such as when they said that the Iraqis did not open fire [at the U.S. warplanes], while a few hours earlier the evil remnants of the previous administration said the cease-fire was violated. We have the ability to deal with such provocations whether they are intentional or unintentional because we have adopted an initiative that pleases the good ones as much as it annoys the Zionists and the evil ones. It should be taken into consideration that there are still hirelings and midgets within the U.S. forces or other affiliated organs that try to incite problems and cause confrontation between Iraq and the new administration. This is something that we will not allow to happen unless there is an intention by the new administration to continue the bad march. We hope this is not so. What is important is to feel satisfied that we have done our task. We believe there is still time, and we will give sufficient time for this initiative. If there is any degree of goodwill on the other side we will deal positively with it.

[Al-Silawi] As you said, the U.S. Administration has changed. However, there may still be others in power who are Bush's aides. And, as you said, the new President is not well versed in foreign policy. In light of these facts, do you expect flexibility from the new administration toward Iraq? Will you continue your flexibility, and are there any new initiatives in the making?

[Ramadan] If the new U.S. President is sincere concerning what he said in his campaign, then it is time for him to lead a policy that is different from that of Bush. We do not want to go into in his program, which gave prominence to the internal situation—the economic, educational, scientific, and health situation. He said directly that among the measures that should be taken is reforming the internal situation and making courageous decisions concerning the Armed Forces. If he is sincere, he will put his program into practice. He should seek what secures the U.S. interests with the least losses. We believe that peace can realize U.S. interests without harming Iraqi interests. Practically, Bush was the one who harmed the Iraqi interests but he did not realize the U.S. interests as much as he realized a great deal of hatred. This will have an adverse effect on the United States, its foreign policy, and economy, as well as in dealing with all U.S. establishments, which will feel this effect.

We did not raise the slogan of harming U.S. interests in the region, including dealings with Iraq. Realization of U.S. interests, to which we are not opposed, should not be at the expense of the Iraqi sovereignty and independence. For example, if oil is the focus of the U.S. foreign policy in the region, then the question is: Has Iraq a precedent of unreserved cutting back of crude oil production and doubling prices? Has Iraq adopted a different position than others in marketing this commodity? Iraq's positions are known, and Iraq has confronted Iran and others at more than one stage. Proof that Iraq does not take a different position is that until the moment of the aggression, the United States was the biggest customer for Iraqi oil. When the United States announced a ban on the sale of farm products to Iraq in February 1990, Iraq did not ban the sale of crude oil to the United States. Therefore, we think that a peaceful policy can far better realize the U.S. interests. This policy also makes friends and provides a horizon of cooperation and exchange of interests better than those realized by war and its huge and numerous adverse effects. Sometimes wishes are mixed with reality. Our wish is that the new administration follows a policy that is different from that of its predecessor. Certainly, they can assess this situation better than we can. The war policy will only lead to the collapse of the U.S. economy and create hotbeds of tension in the world, and this will cause additional burdens for the United States. At the same time, the war policy draws a bleak picture for the future of the United States and its relations, because we should not view things as they are since many and huge international changes are taking place. At the same time, we do not know what is in their hearts because we have no relations and dialogue with them in order to assess what they think. All we have where they are concerned are hopes. As I said, we will not be shocked whatever the results may be because we have planned for the worst.

[Al-Silawi] Can we understand that Iraq will not oppose the U.S. interests, and that what it seeks is cooperation?

[Ramadan] I cannot say that I am optimistic, but I am happy that we have chosen the right path, utilized the situation in the best possible way, and revealed what is in the conscience of our people and the good ones in our nation. We have great confidence that the U.S. response

will be positive, but I cannot say what the response will be, although I am optimistic.

[Al-Silawi] During the last strike on Iraq, the Arab countries which supported the first strike in 1991 adopted a different position. There was a difference in the positions of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Do you understand these positions as positive signs? Has Iraq ambitions in the region?

[Ramadan] I say to the honorable media and AL-RA'Y newspaper, which have an honorable role, and to all nationalist and pan-Arab political movements not to assess things hastily, and to benefit from the experience, ordeal, and lessons of the Mother of Battles. We should not forget quickly. We must scrutinize what is said in comparison with what was said and done in the past. Hence, I ask those who speak about the different position of Mubarak and Egypt at this stage: Where is this difference?

Who supported the strike against Iraq, except for the three states—the United States, Britain, and France? Even France and Britain did not show absolute support for the strike. When Mubarak speaks to reporters on television, all that he can do is express his sorrow over the aggression. We do not know whether he feels sorry for us or for America. But he repeats his words several times so that the Americans would not misunderstand him. He thinks all what happened is because Saddam Husayn is not complying with UN resolutions. What Mubarak did was not to call for more strikes, because he could not do that, since his domestic situation and the Arab situation do not help him. They have been using the drama that followed 2 August as a cover. Despite all of this and despite two strikes against Iraq without the Security Council's approval, what does this aggression have to do with Saddam Husayn's compliance with Security Council resolutions? Are the no-fly zones related to the Security Council? Would any genuine Arab say that the Security Council resolutions are real? They want all of Iraq's equipment to graze on Iraq's meadows, shepherded by Israel. These are the Security Council resolutions that Mubarak wants. Has he accepted to be an tool for the Pentagon and the U.S. Administration? We do not accept this. Mubarak has not changed his conduct. Mubarak, even before Bush, is the first to be held responsible for each drop of blood shed in Iraq. This is my personal opinion, because we know that had it not been for the Cairo summit fabricated and produced by Mubarak in a fashion that will never be forgotten by history... [changes thought] and now he is only sorry. Our Arab press should not try to beautify an ugly face.

[Al-Silawi] There is a zone in the north, another in the south, and you are in control of the center. Is this part of the scheme to partition Iraq? What are your future plans with regard to the north and the south?

[Ramadan] Your saying that there is no authority over the north and south is inaccurate. The north and south are absolutely no different from the center. Despite the existence of malicious hands, we of our own will maintained the current status of the north so as not to be depleted. Everything happens at our will. If we think about the enemy's plans, they want to partition all Arab countries, including their staunch ally Egypt. Where there is a will, the partition scheme can never succeed. Any people who tenaciously refuse to be partitioned will not be partitioned, even if they partition them by force.

[Al-Silawi] Some media organs have said that there is a political dispute between Jordan and the Iraqi leadership. We know that you had a major role in establishing relations with Jordan. What is your comment?

[Al-Silawi] First of all, the Jordaian-Iraqi relationship is not dependent on a certain phase. Arab relations in general should be normal, and the differences are temporary, because we are one family, even if there are several views. Since 1974, the Jordanian-Iraqi relationship has been fostered by the leadership's wish, depending on instructions, follow-up, and resolve on the part of President Saddam Husayn. We have done everything in this direction. I think we have achieved a distinguished level, if we compare it to the situation that prevailed in the past. We realize the size of fierce attempts by America, Europe, and some Arabs to undermine this relationship, even before the Mother of Battles started. However, we believe that the roots and dimensions of this relationship, as well as the special relations between officials of the two countries are stronger than all these attempts. We should not forget that these attempts have increased in the past year in particular. We are aware of Jordan's circumstances and nature and capabilities. But so far, we can only say that the relationship with Jordan is different from other countries. We wish to see the feelings of Jordanian citizens and officials materialize. I am also confident that the next stage will witness progress that will dissipate the negative rumors about the distinguished Iraqi-Jordanian relations.

'Aziz Notes Wish To Open New Chapter With U.S.

JN2601135793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has reiterated Iraq's sincere intention to open a new chapter of relations with the new U.S. Administration if that administration is ready for this and if it shows sincere intentions to begin a new stage with Iraq. In an interview with CNN broadcast yesterday, Tariq 'Aziz stressed that Iraq does not want to be in continuous confrontation with the United States. He said that this was its will in the past, is so at present, and will be in the future.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed Iraq's commitment to the cease-fire announced on 20 January in order to create a peaceful and appropriate atmosphere for the new U.S. Administration to review the policies of the former administration vis-a-vis Iraq.

'Aziz said: If the new U.S. Administration speaks about the need to respect and implement the UN resolutions, this administration should show a degree of respect for these resolutions and should not interpret them in a contradictory way. This administration, he added, should not raise personal issues and link them with the implementation of UN resolutions. 'Aziz said that in dealing with the issues in the region, particularly with Iraq, the new U.S. Administration must be objective and follow an effective and neutral policy. 'Aziz said: We are not asking this administration to disregard U.S. interests. However, it should not link these interests with personal matters as the former administration did.

Tariq 'Aziz recalled the statements made by the Foreign Ministry spokesman on many occasions in which he affirmed that the allegations that the Iraqi missile batteries were in threatening and offensive positions in the wake of the cease-fire announcement were mere fabrications. 'Aziz asked about the motives behind these fabrications.

Answering a question on the secret behind the timing of Iraq's challenge and rejection of the no-fly zones in the north and south with the inauguration of the Clinton administration, Tariq 'Aziz said: It is no secret that we wanted the challenge and we were, and still are, ready to challenge and reject the no-fly zones because, as everybody knows, they were imposed on Iraq by the administration of former President Bush for personal reasons. Bush, he added, wanted to drag Iraq into a military confrontation, but we deprived him of that opportunity. Therefore, we postponed the confrontation to another stage which we have chosen in light of future developments.

'Aziz added: We cannot accept the imposition of the no-fly zones because, first, this is an infringement on Iraq's sovereignty and this alone is sufficient to make us reject them. From the technical side, the no-fly zones lack so-called legitimacy as they are not based on an international decision and were established on fabricated pretexts. Consequently, the no-fly zones fall within the political objective of a conspiracy aimed at dividing Iraq into three small states.

Tariq 'Aziz reiterated that Iraq is giving the new U.S. Administration a reasonable opportunity to review this issue. He noted that the cease-fire decision is not an ultimatum to this administration and does not have a time limit; it is an opportunity to review, and interact objectively with, the cease-fire decision.

Regarding the way in which the situation in northern Iraq was tackled, Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the situation in the north was dealt with through a peaceful, democratic manner during 1991. He said: A dialogue was conducted and lasted for several months. We reached full agreement. However, what happened was that the former administration prevented Kurdish leaders from signing the agreement reached on 21 August 1991. Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state in the former administration, prevented Talabani and others from signing the agreement. However, the peaceful and democratic offer is still there, especially since Iraq is the only state in the region which achieved a legal constitutional, peaceful, and democratic solution to the Kurdish problem, unlike the case in Iran, Turkey, and Syria.

Replying to the CNN correspondent's comment that the West needs Iraq as a balancing force in the region, Tariq 'Aziz said: Iraq is not a proxy for the West in the region to act against any of its countries. For example, Iran is a neighboring country, and we like to have good relations with it. However, regrettably, the Iranian regime does not want to establish normal relations with Iraq. It still has expansionist schemes and seeks to obtain huge quantities of weapons, many more than are needed for Iran's defense. Just like other tense regions in the world, our region requires a situation where there is a balance of power to curb illegitimate ambitions.

At the end of the interview with CNN, Tariq 'Aziz affirmed Iraq's concern with entrenching its legitimate sovereignty over its territory and airspace, and about ending the current abnormal situation represented by the two no-fly zones. Other than this, Iraq has no regional ambitions.

Official Meets Russian Liberal Party Delegation

JN2601175893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, head of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, today met with a delegation of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party. He said: Cohesion among militants in progressive parties and forces and the support of good forces in the world for Iraq are a sign of global awareness of the ugly crimes committed against the great people of Iraq. Latif Nusayyif Jasim called on all honest forces to continue exposing the objectives of the plot against Iraq and to foil the conspiratorial scheme against its lofty people.

(Ahamdov), spokesman for the delegation of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, said that the party with its leadership, masses, and the Russian people, strongly support Iraq. He added that through this support they express their deep respect for the militant stand of the Iraqi people and their great leadership, which are facing the imperialist plot with a unique capability.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Foreign Relations Bureau and the head of the Iraqi-Russian Friendship Society.

Delegation Received by Speaker

JN2701114593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahid Salih has underlined Iraq's sincere desire to establish advanced relations with Russia in all fields in the interest of the two friendly nations.

During a meeting today with Khalitov Ahmed Kharisovitch [name as received], deputy head of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, and his accompanying delegation, the National Assembly speaker valued the brave stands adopted by the Russian people and their Liberal Democratic Party in support of the Iraqi people, who are confronting conspiracies against their national security and sovereignty.

He called on all world organizations and parties to expose the false U.S. claims and threats and the double standards adopted by the aggressors against Iraq and world nations.

Kharisovitch denounced the aggressive plots being led by the United States and its allies against Iraq, as well as the continued unjust blockade around it.

He expressed pride in the steadfastness of the Iraqi people in the face of all forms of colonialist hegemony and the evil forces that seek to undermine its national unity and interfere in its domestic affairs.

Paper Praises Russia's 'Shift,' Urges Greater Role

JN2701090993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—An Iraqi paper has said that the new Russian stand opposing aggression against Iraq is the stand of someone "championing the Russian self."

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH newspaper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that the new Russian stance is a natural result of Russia's respect for its role, weight, and history.

The paper adds: This shift is not surprising. It is the outcome of accumulated popular and official stands rejecting U.S. domination.

The paper adds that whoever follows the positions adopted by Russian political forces inside and outside parliament feels that these forces are eager to visit Iraq and establish political relations with it. Evidence of this is the repeated pro-Iraq demonstrations that opposed the policies of the aggressive, overbearing Bush administration.

The paper explains that the pro-Iraq demonstrations are not essentially a rejection of a U.S.-Atlantic aggression against Iraq but a rejection of Russia's status and political disgrace.

The paper concludes that Iraq still believes that Russia can play much greater and more comprehensive and active roles than its recent positive attitudes.

Ministry Poll on Desire for Peace Criticized

JN2601152093 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 23 Jan 93 p 8

[Text] When the shout "come to jihad" is heard, this means we should put everything behind us and look toward God, the homeland, and the leader. We, therefore, cannot understand the scientific basis on which the Ministry of Culture and Information based its "acclaimed" poll of the Iraqis' desire for peace.

Is this the time for such a poll? What, in other words, is the use of such a poll? Have they asked the citizen in the marshlands and the countryside, or have they only asked the people in the capital, Baghdad?

We urge the respected gentlemen in the Ministry of Culture and Information to listen to the Friday prayer sermon delivered by Shaykh 'Ali al-Faqir in Umm-al-Tubul Mosque yesterday.

U.S. Action Viewed, Dialogue Urged

JN2601150293 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 23 Jan 93 p 2

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "A Letter to Clinton"]

[Text] Three days after Iraq's initiative for peace, nothing has so far emerged from the United States that might reciprocate this initiative or come close to it. Hence, the powder keg remains where it was, ready to explode at any time. Otherwise, how can the raid by a U.S. warplane on a civilian area near Mosul on Thursday [21 January] be explained as anything other than a provocative, aggressive action carried out one day after Bill Clinton assumed power as President and one day after Iraq's unilateral cease-fire decision as a goodwill gesture toward the new U.S. Administration?

Was Washington's raid a test of the extent of Iraq's commitment to its cease-fire decision? Undoubtedly, such tests cannot be conducted by playing with fire. It seems that Clinton's statements on Iraq, which have not ceased even after Bush's departure from the White House, have established the political and military groundwork for the U.S. aerial raid and also for similar operations that might take place in the future.

One who seeks to rebuild his home does not talk and behave the same way toward the world as his predecessor did, nor does he use such phrases as "the United States is the world's leader." He, moreover, does not search for justifications to impose leadership on this or that part of the world by force or threat of force.

No one inside or outside Iraq has provoked Clinton; it has not even occurred to anyone to do so. However, the new U.S. President began his term in office by provoking Iraq and China, and by criticizing several U.S. allies in Europe because they said that the aggression against Iraq in the last days of Bush's term went beyond the bounds of the UN Security Council resolutions.

Within this context, it can also be said that Clinton is still against Iraq's right to sovereignty over its own airspace and territories. Moreover, Clinton interprets the Security Council resolutions contrary to reality, and insists on maintaining the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq, regarding them as zones mentioned in UN resolutions despite the frank UN announcement that the Security Council resolutions do not ban Iraqi aircraft from flying in their own airspace, and that the no-fly zones were imposed by the coalition states, under U.S. leadership.

It is too early to judge the way Clinton will deal with international politics. However, this general statement should not apply to the biggest capitalist state and the leader of world capitalism, especially since the United States is facing signs of "rebellion" by its capitalist allies such as Japan and Europe, which is quickly heading toward unity. Furthermore, the United States is facing a popular movement that has started to surface on all continents—a movement which is now developing in a way that will threaten U.S. interests in the near future.

Regardless of many details pertaining to the substance and nature of the U.S. capitalist system and the pillars of U.S. policy, I can say that Clinton represents a different era from that of his predecessor Bush—a phase which has become more fierce and violent following the fragmentation and collapse of the socialist bloc and the Soviet Union. This difference, however, is not decided by the new U.S. President or anyone else in the U.S. Administration. Therefore, Clinton cannot be another Bush under the current circumstances, or even in the future, since some European allies of the United States have dissociated themselves from Bush's crimes, particularly those committed against Iraq, and started increasingly to criticize the theory that "the United States is the world's leader." Moreover, Russia has gone back on its support for the U.S. policy against Iraq under pressure from the Russian opposition. Japan has also stated that the United States should have a neutral presence in Southeast Asia. China, too, has affirmed that it rejects U.S. interference in its internal affairs—a rejection contained in the congratulations extended to the U.S. President on his assumption of power.

There is no alternative for Clinton at this or any other time but to embrace the principle of dialogue with world countries to resolve outstanding problems and benefit from the bitter experiences which his predecessor Bush brought on the American people—problems represented by the budget deficit, rising unemployment, taxes, hunger, and reductions in social and health services. These are the same problems that Clinton had addressed and promised to resolve in his election campaign under the slogan of "the United States first," on the basis of which he won the presidential election.

The logic of sole leadership ended with the defeat of nazism in World War II and should once again end with the termination of Bush's era and his downfall—a downfall brought about by his attempts to revive such a leadership role for the United States. The foreseeable future will show everyone that Bush, who sowed evil everywhere, has left Clinton the task of reaping the results of these evils. These results are evident in the differences which have started to emerge between the United States and its allies, the mounting desire by the peoples of the former Soviet Union and the former socialist bloc to revive the Soviet republics and socialism, and the Third World peoples' readiness to embark on political and military struggle for independence, freedom, and enhancement of their solidarity to confront imperialist interference in Iraq, the invasion of Somalia, and any new adventures by the imperialists regardless of their nationality.

Arab League Informed of 23 Jan Airspace 'Violations'

JN2601153093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that U.S., British, and French aircraft have continued to violate Iraqi airspace from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League said, in a message addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, that U.S., British, and French aircraft violated Iraqi airspace on Saturday, 23 January, from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and carried out 64 hostile sorties.

Iraq's representative attached to his message a clear, detailed list of these violations, and noted that the Government of Iraq wants to inform the Arab League secretary general and all the Arab countries of these regrettable acts. He also asked the secretary general to distribute the message to Arab League member states.

Rebel Radio Reports Recent Antiregime Operations

NC2601164193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] The Islamic resistance forces carried out a number of operations against tyrant Saddam's apparatuses and criminal mercenaries in the past few days.

An Islamic resistance group attacked the headquarters of the regime's party in al-Kuwayr in the al-Basrah Governorate, killing the two criminals Tahsin Sabbar and Ghazwan and wounding a number of others. It is worth noting that the criminals were party members notorious for their role in monitoring the movements of and harassing citizens in the area.

On 13 January, a group belonging to the al-Basrah Governorate's Islamic resistance killed criminals 'Abd-al-Sadah Muhawi and Qasim. Our sources say these two criminals actually participated in crimes against the sons of our Iraqi people despite the warnings addressed to them by the mujahidin of the Islamic revolution.

On 10 January, a mujahidin group carried out an offensive against the tyrant Saddam's troops guarding a rampart in the area of Abu-Jariyah in the al-'Amarah Governorate marshlands. This was confirmed by our sources, who added that four of the regime's elements were killed and 10 others were injured in the operation. The remainder of the troops escaped, leaving their weapons and equipment behind. The popular resistance forces confiscated the weapons and equipment and moved them to the rear lines.

In retaliation for tyrant Saddam's escalation of his criminal practices against our Iraqi people in the south, last week a brave mujahidin group carried out an offensive against a regime roadblock in the military quarters in the al-Majarr al-Kabir district in the al-'Amarah Governorate. Our sources in the south said that all those manning the roadblock, five in total, were killed and their weapons and ammunition were confiscated. The group then returned safely to base.

Opposition Group Seeks Saddam's Overthrow, Condemns U.S.

NC2601214693 Paris AFP in English 2059 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 26 (AFP) - A Saudi-based Iraqi opposition group on Tuesday urged all the Iraqi opposition movements to close ranks and overthrow Saddam Husayn, and criticised the Western allies for failing to topple him.

The Islamic Coalition also charged that the United States and Britain had an interest in keeping the Iraqi president in power "to scare the (Iraqi) people and squander the resources of the Gulf region." "The Islamic Coalition exhorts the Iraqi opposition to revise its policy and to stop from depending on the United States and the West for the overthrow of Saddam Husayn," a statement received here by AFP said.

"Iraq will only be liberated by the Iraqis," it said, adding that the Iraqi people must join hands with opposition movements to topple Saddam. The coalition questioned whether "the allies namely the Americans are sincere and intend on toppling Saddam Husayn or do they simply want to pursue attacks against Iraq with planes and missiles?" And it added: "The Iraqi people have been deeply disappointed to see the allied forces avoid harming Saddam Husayn on the orders of the White House."

The coalition is one of several Iraqi opposition groups based outside Iraq. It claims to represent eight groups.

Its spokesman, Mohammad al-Allusi, last week announced that the coalition had frozen its participation in the London-based Iraqi National Congress, a coalition of other Iraqi opposition groups. The congress held a meeting in October in the Kurdish-controlled town of Salah-al-Din in northern Iraq to discuss means of overthrowing Saddam and elected a provisional government.

Communist Party Urges Opposition To Unite, Topple Regime

JN2601164493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jan (SANA)—The Central Committee of the Iraqi Communist Party has affirmed that the Iraqi regime's attempts to enter into new adventures and create crises with the United States and its allies are aimed at depicting itself as defender of national sovereignty.

In a statement distributed in Damascus today, the committee explained that the Iraqi regime's contrived military escalation is increasing the suffering of Iraq's people, who are still under the burden of international blockade, and hampering efforts to reach an acceptable settlement to end the Iraqi people's suffering and save them from famine, disease, and poverty.

The statement points out that the military escalation by Saddam Husayn's regime coincides with the escalation of global pressure on Israel to get it to revoke its deportation of Palestinian citizens from the occupied territories. As a result, the deportees' issue has become a secondary one, thereby giving Israel a chance to rid itself of global pressures.

Concluding its statement, the Iraqi Communist Party urged the Iraqi opposition inside and outside government institutions to free itself of despair, close its ranks, and embark on positive action, since these are the only ways to topple the Iraqi regime.

Rabin on UN Report, Threat From Lebanon

TA2601181993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report by Yo'av Aviv from the Lebanese border]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that if need be, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is capable of safely transporting the lawyers of the deportees to the Zummarayya crossing to meet their clients. He made these remarks after meeting IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] commanders in the security zone.

Rabin reiterated that the United Nations treats Israel using the same standards it uses with Iraq, Libya, and Yugoslavia and stated that this is unfair. None of the deportees has been hurt, he said.

Referring to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Hizballah's actions in Lebanon, the prime minister said that Iran stands behind both organizations.

[Begin Rabin recording] There are close links between Hamas and Iran and between Islamic Jihad and Iran. The two organizations have permanent representatives in Iran and among the extreme Islamic organizations in Jordan. The return of Hizballah men to Lebanon after undergoing military training in Iran certainly entails dangers. Iran encourages and supplies arms to Hizballah, and it also supplies arms and money to other extreme elements. In my opinion, Iran gave some $30 million in 1992 to Hamas in the territories. [end recording]

The prime minister said that we should be ready to tackle the surge of Islam and to prevent terrorist attacks in Lebanon, such as the attack in the security zone last Saturday. He also predicted an increase in Hizballah's activities in Lebanon next month, seeing that there are several anniversaries in February which the terrorists will seek to mark.

Hizballah Activists' Training Noted

TA2601083993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Many Hizballah activists have recently undergone terrorist training in Iran and have returned to southern Lebanon in order to improve the quality of the attacks against Israel. Security sources told our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that the return of these activists to the region could cause a deterioration in the security situation in southern Lebanon and bring about an increase in the number of attacks against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and South Lebanese Army.

Military Source Denies Hamas Headquarters in U.S.

TA2701143993 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Jan 93 pp 27, 28

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpt] Some time ago Israel Television had a scoop: the executive of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is based in the United States—in Virginia, Wisconsin, and Texas, to be more precise. The disclosures were discussed in the following cabinet session as part of a security debate.

At the time of this disclosure, a special public relations committee began operating in the Prime Minister's Office. The committee was set up immediately after the deportations to tackle the ensuing damage to Israel's image. The members of the committee are: Uri Dromi, director of the Government Press Office; Gad Ben-Ari and 'Oded Ben-'Ami, media advisers to the prime minister and the defense minister; Evyatar Manor, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman; Yosi Gal, director of the Foreign Ministry's public relations department; and Brigadier General Ilan Tal, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman. Eytan Haber, the director of the prime minister's bureau, was assigned to liaise between the prime minister and the committee members.

They were watching television one Friday night, listening to Ehud Ya'ari's scoop, and they had to admit it was the first time they had heard such a story. They were the ones who ought to have known. Consequently, they wanted to get more details.

At this stage it transpired that the facts were slightly different. "To simply argue that Hamas has its headquarters in the United States and that it calls the shots from there is not serious enough," one committee member said, "and that is why we decided to drop the whole thing." Brigadier General Me'ir Dagan, the chief of staff's adviser on intifadah affairs, was far more assertive: "The story is totally unfounded. It is completely ludicrous. Hamas' cells are here, its leadership is here, and all the guidance is issued from here." [passage omitted]

Further Rabin Criticism of Butrus-Ghali Report

TA2701102593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jan 93 p A3

[Report by Gid'on Alon and Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpts] In the session yesterday with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin briefed the Knesset members [MK's] on the report of UN Secretary General Butrus-Butrus Ghali about the deportees, which Rabin received from Israel's UN ambassador.

According to him, the report includes seven pages describing the facts, and another page with offers and recommendations in which the secretary general notes that the deportation is yet another grave incident in a series of violations of international laws by Israel in the territories.

Rabin stressed that the report makes no mention of terrorism or Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and that it also includes a recommendation to the UN

Security Council to use all the necessary means against Israel to implement Resolution 799.

Referring to the possibility that the Council would impose sanctions on Israel, Rabin said that "until this day, no U.S. Administration has allowed imposing sanctions on Israel. I hope this will continue. We have launched wide-ranging diplomatic activity, including an appeal by 'Ezer Weizman to his friend Ghali. I hope that there is no element that wishes to award Hamas."

Rabin told the committee members that he had talked to UN Secretary General Ghali about the deportation of the Hamas activists. Ghali, Rabin said at the end of his briefing, was not convinced by my arguments. "You know that talking to Ghali is like talking to a wall," Rabin said.

Upon emerging from the Knesset committee session, Rabin said that the report completely ignores the extreme Islamic terrorism and its goal—putting an end to the peace process.

According to Rabin, two weeks ago Israel agreed that the International Red Cross provide the deportees with medical aid, water purification tablets, letters, and so forth; the deportees, however, refused to accept them, and also refused to empower their family members to file appeals against their deportation.

In yesterday's discussion of the Hamas deportations, the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee leveled harsh criticism at Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister. Labor and Likud MK's lashed at the incompetent implementation of the deportation decision. [passage omitted]

Rabin replied that he would not like to address the allegations that he is losing the reigns of power. "So far, the government's decisions have been correct, and I have no problem with them even if there are problems here and there," he said. [passage omitted]

Referring to the deportation, Rabin said: "I did not expect anyone in the world to applaud the deportation operation, although we have explained that everything was made in accordance to legal proceedings.

"It may well be that we did not evaluate every stage, but on the other hand I was, and still am, convinced that Hamas had to be delivered a harsh blow. It is my duty to take care of security. It was clear to me, contrary to the estimates of others, that the issue will not dissolve so fast. That is why we are trying now to explain our stand."

Rabin apparently lost his patience after hearing the Likud MK's' criticism. Labor MK Hagay Merom said: "In retrospect, our mistake in the deportation was that we refused to provide the deportees with humanitarian aid." Rabin interrupted his remarks, and said angrily: "We did not refuse. We only decided not to allow the food convoy to get to the deportees on land; we agreed to deliver the food by air. Unfortunately, the facts are being presented in a twisted manner." [passage omitted]

Envoys Seek Debate Delay

TA2701060893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The U.S., Russian, and Japanese ambassadors in the United Nations told Israeli diplomats that the Security Council will most likely not debate a proposal to impose sanctions on Israel, our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports. The United States is trying to postpone convening the Council on the deportees' issue, and the State Department spokesman in Washington said that his country wants to wait until all diplomatic avenues are exhausted before the Council considers action. He stressed that Washington does not believe that a Council debate on a proposal to impose sanctions on Israel will achieve anything constructive.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem ordered Israeli ambassadors based in the capitals of the five permanent Council members to work for a postponement in convening the body. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Jerusalem believes the United States, Russia, Britain, and China will support the Israeli stand, but that the French position is unclear. If the Council is nevertheless convened Israel will try to convince its members to reach a decision only after the High Court of Justice rules on the deportees' issue.

Official Views Postponement

TA2701120193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Officials in Jerusalem express confidence that the Security Council will postpone its meeting on the expulsions until after Israel's High Court of Justice rules on the issue. The United States, Russia, China, and Britain are expected to support the delay although the position of France is not clear. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Israel's ambassadors are urging the members of the Security Council, permanent and non-permanent, to wait for the High Court decision before they meet to consider Butrus-Ghali's call for measures to force Israel to comply with resolution 799. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says member countries have indicated that they will agree to a postponement. He says the United States is not the only country opposed to sanctions against Israel:

[Beilin] There is an understanding that what is happening in Israel, the only democratic and liberal state in the Middle East, is far from being compared to any other state in the region, and that the accusation of double standards is something which is not realistic and not justified.

[Katzenell] For the professional diplomats the immediate concern is the postponement of the Security Council debate, and the question of sanctions is not yet on the agenda. I asked Yosi Beilin if he is disappointed with Butrus-Ghali, whom he supported as candidate for secretary general. Beilin admitted that he was surprised

when Butrus-Ghali mentioned Israel's refusal to comply with Resolution 681. This called for UN observers to be stationed in the territories after the 1990 incident on the Temple Mount in which 17 Palestinians were killed:

[Beilin] I believe that it was wrong to mention it. It has nothing to do with the current situation and with Resolution 799, and from this aspect it was a kind of a frustration.

[Katzenell] Beilin says there is reason to hope that Butrus- Ghali's recommendation for measures against Israel will not be accepted by the Security Council. [end recording]

Peres To Meet European Leaders; Talks With Hasan Denied

TA2701130293 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by Gad Li'or from Bonn]

[Text] In a bid to prevent harm to Israel by European countries in view of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists' deportation, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will meet with no fewer than 23 European heads of state and foreign ministers in the next six days.

Peres will arrive this evening in Bern, the Swiss capital. In the next three days, he will meet the leaders who will arrive to the city of Davos to take part in an international forum, convened to discuss world economic and political developments.

The foreign minister's bureau yesterday denied that during his tour Peres is due to meet Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan. "We do not know of such a meeting," they said.

IDF Commander on Threat From Confrontation States

TA2701080893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The Israeli home front will be endangered by faraway countries even if the peace process bears fruit, Major General Ze'ev Livne, commander of the Home Front Command, said in an interview to IDF Radio. He said the confrontation states must understand that any attack on Israel's home front will lead to grave Israeli punishment. Our army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik interviewed the commander:

[Begin recording] [Semrik] Gen. Livne believes Israel is not facing any immediate danger of a chemical attack.

[Livne] The Arab countries, or the confrontation states, must understand that any attack on the State of Israel's home front will not go without grave punishment, or grave reaction, by us. I believe the element of deterrence is very important in the defense of the home front, which in my view, also worked in the Gulf war.

[Semrik] We asked Gen. Livne if the Home Front Command is prepared to withstand the threats from Iran's current arms buildup.

[Livne] We are also prepared for such a possibility, and we have to take into account that even if the peace process in which we find ourselves bears fruit, the danger to the home front from further away states will still exist. That is why we think it is so important to be prepared even if there is, and hopefully there will be, progress in the peace process.

[Semrik] Is the Israeli home front more secure today than it was a year ago or during the Gulf war?

[Livne] I think we are better prepared today than two years ago. With the passing of time we become better prepared in building up bodies and forces, and in coordinating all the emergency organizations. We are building an infrastructure, which will continue into 1994, and which we believe will provide a reasonable wide-ranging national response to the possibility of the home front being hit. [end recording]

Sources Confirm Export Talks With Jordan; No Agreement Yet

TA2501121793 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Jan 93 p 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Israel is willing to permit Jordan to export goods to the territories. Sources in Jerusalem told our correspondent that various economic issues, including the Arab boycott, were discussed within the framework of unofficial talks in Washington. In the course of these talks, Jordan initiated a request to permit the export of goods to the territories.

The sources thus confirmed a report published yesterday in the East Jerusalem newspaper AL-NAHAR. The paper asserted that Jordan had raised such a proposal during the last round of talks in Washington and that Israel had given a positive reply. Jordan submitted to Israel a list of products it was interested in selling in the territories, such as oil and fuel byproducts, drugs, food products, and cleaning materials.

After the Six-Day War, Israel refused to allow Jordan to sell its products in the territories, while Jordan, for its part, meticulously adhered to the Arab boycott regulations against Israel. The flow of trade was completely one-sided: Jordan purchased agricultural products in the territories but was forbidden to sell anything in return, and there was an annual trade gap of approximately $200 million between Jordan and the territories. AL-NAHAR notes that Israel informed the Jordanians that the problem of customs and taxes would have to be dealt with.

The East Jerusalem daily added that Jordan and the Palestinians are holding parallel talks on economic relations between Jordan and the territories during the

interim period. The intention is to forge economic ties between the two banks of the Jordan River and thus weaken the territories' economic links with Israel.

AL-NAHAR reported that there has been some criticism of these contacts in Jordan. Certain Jordanian circles believe that such plans should only be discussed after peace has been achieved and should not be approved now within the framework of confidence-building measures.

The Israeli sources reported that although there is still no agreement on this matter, other economic issues, such as the possibility of Jordanian banks and insurance companies resuming activity in the territories, are also being discussed.

The Israeli sources asserted that there is no connection between these contacts and mutual confidence-building measures.

Foreign Ministry 'Satisfied' With U.S. Human Rights Report

TA2201161393 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 22 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] Reacting to the U.S. State Department report on human rights for 1992, which includes criticism of the situation in the territories, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel is satisfied with the report's comments on measures taken by the government which have considerably improved the situation. Among other things, the report cites the improvement in the government's checks and balances.

The spokesman added that 1992 saw a significant increase in terror attacks, especially by the extremist organizations that want to harm the peace process. As a result of this terror wave there was a drastic increase in the number of Jews killed by Palestinians—the number more than tripled compared with the previous year. There was a significant increase in the number of Palestinians killed by members of Palestinian terror organizations.

Romania's Spiroiu Meets Rabin, Conveys Iliescu Message

AU2301165393 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] From 20 to 24 January, Romania's minister of national defense, Lieutenant General Niculae Spiroiu is paying a visit to Israel, at the invitation of his counterpart Yitzhaq Rabin. According to Romanian diplomatic sources, at the meeting between the Romanian defense minister and Israeli prime minister, who is also the minister of defense, the sides dealt with relations between Romania and Israel. According to the same sources, the Israeli prime minister emphasized the very special nature of Romanian-Israeli relations and pointed out the expansion of relations with Romania in the past two years in all spheres of activity.

During the same meeting between Mr. Niculae Spiroiu and Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin, the Israeli prime minister was given a message of friendship from Romanian President Ion Iliescu, which also contained an invitation to pay a visit to Romania.

MiG-21 Upgrade Delayed

TA2201145493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jan 93 p A5

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] Following meetings held yesterday between senior defense officials and visiting Romanian Defense Minister Nicolae Spiroiu, Israeli sources now estimate that the deal to upgrade Romanian Air Force MiG-21's will not be implemented before next year.

The Romanians have already formulated their operational demands from the upgraded planes and the details of the avionic systems they want installed in the aircraft, but the size of the budget at their disposal will only become known at the end of 1993. The upgrading project is meant to include 100 planes, at a cost of approximately $300 million.

Moshe Qeret, the director general of the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] and 'Imanu'el Gil, the president of the Elbit company, are holding contacts to agree about cooperation on the deal with Romania. The IAI won the Romanian Air Force tender to upgrade the planes approximately four months ago, but the Romanians later demanded that Elbit be included in the project and receive a significant share of the job. The two Israeli companies had a hard time reaching agreement and the Romanians threatened to call off the whole deal. The Defense Ministry is pressuring Elbit and the IAI to reach agreement.

The Romanian minister began his visit with a meeting with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and with Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri. Afterwards, he toured the IAI. At a reception held by Prime Minister Rabin yesterday for the Romanian guest, the prime minister noted the strengthening ties between the defense establishments and industries of both countries.

Today, General Spiroiu will visit the Israel Military Industries. The Romanian Army wants to renew its aging equipment, which was mostly produced in Romania according to Soviet specifications, and has evinced interest in Israeli-produced sub-systems and high-tech ammunition. At the air show in Farnborough last summer, the Romanian aircraft industries presented a Romanian-made model of the Puma helicopter, incorporating an upgrading kit developed by Elbit, which includes an antitank missile based on Israel's Mapatz missile.

The scope of Israeli defense industry deals with Romania—whose defense ties with Israel are the most developed in the former East bloc—total tens of millions of dollars. The scope of the contracts that have already been signed is several times more.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Jeszenszky Visits

LD1801201493 Budapest MTI in English 1902 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Jerusalem, January 18 (MTI)—Hungary does its best to maintain good relations with its neighbours and so does Israel to achieve peace in the Middle East, Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky said after talks with Israeli leaders on Monday.

"My talks with leaders of the country confirmed my view Israel makes serious efforts to achieve that aim," Jeszenszky said.

Jeszenszky briefed the press after an hour-long meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Jerusalem.

Earlier in the day, Jeszenszky met his Israeli counterpart Shi'mon Peres and attended a lunch hosted by Knesset (parliament) Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee Chairman Ori Orr.

Asked by an Israeli Television correspondent, he qualified bilateral ties as excellent.

Speaking about plans to meet Israeli businesspeople during the last day of the visit, he said the talks will concern the development of economic ties.

Although the date has yet to be set, Rabin has been invited to Budapest, Jeszenszky said, and he hoped he could soon greet Shi'mon Peres in Hungary as well.

Answering a question, he said the issue of anti-Semitism was not discussed at the talks, although the press have asked questions concerning it. He added that the facts and the Hungarian Government's attitude speak for themselves on that topic.

Says Visit 'Successful'

LD2101182593 Budapest MTI in English 1628 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tel Aviv, January 21 (MTI)—Concluding his five-day visit to Israel, Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky expressed hope that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shi'mon Peres would visit Hungary early this year.

At a Tel Aviv press conference, Jeszenszky said his talks with Rabin and Peres focussed on bilateral ties and regional issues of mutual concern. The minister said his visit was successful and had made a deep impression on him.

"Both countries sincerely strive for peace with their neighbours. of course, mutual will is required in both cases," Jeszenszky said. He termed the situation of the two countries as similar, with Israel lying in, and Hungary near, a crisis zone.

"Since Hungary, simultaneously with the restoration of ties with Israel, maintained its economic and political relations with the Arab states, it can offer, if to a modest extent, its goodwill services," Jeszenszky said.

In the Middle East crisis, Jeszenszky said, Hungary does not want to commit itself to either side, the countries rather, should come to an agreement among themselves. The minister said the relevant UN resolutions had specified the basic principles of settlement, for which the chances are much better today than they previously were.

Jeszenszky noted with satisfaction that bilateral trade turnover, which started from scratch some years ago, has now increased to USD 100 million a year. The minister expressed hope that this was only a beginning.

ANC Youth Delegation Visits for Talks

Meeting With Peres

TA2401104993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met today with a delegation of the young leadership of the African National Congress [ANC], the largest black organization in South Africa. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Peres told the meeting that he had instructed Israel's ambassador in South Africa to meet with Nelson Mandela, the organization's leader. The delegation members stressed that the blacks in their country maintain good ties with the PLO and the Palestinians, and the foreign minister responded by saying that Israel recently repealed the law banning meetings with members of terrorist organizations.

Talks With Israeli Arabs

TA2501130193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jan 93 p A4

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Three Israeli Arab notables who have been active in demonstrating against the deportations met yesterday morning with a seven-member South African delegation from the young leadership of the African National Congress [ANC].

The delegation members, who are on their first visit to Israel, later met with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The Arab notables, including Shaykh Kamil Rayan; Nazim Badr, the secretary of the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Knesset faction; and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, the chairman of the Arab Academics Association from al-Tayyibah, described the deportations to the activists from Nelson Mandela's organization and told them about the protest demonstrations

which followed. They also discussed with the visitors the problems of the Israeli Arab community, complained about the authorities' discriminatory practices against them, and also explained the situation in the territories.

The ANC delegates showed great interest in these matters. The Arab notables later said that their South African guests had told them: "We understand you very well. You are an underprivileged minority in the country, but we, who constitute the majority in South Africa, are even more discriminated against than you."

No Formal Ties Yet

TA2501191193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Ending a 12-day visit to Israel this afternoon, members of the Youth League of the African National Congress [ANC] called deportations a major stumbling block to progress in the peace negotiations. They said they could not recommend an official visit to Israel by ANC leader Nelson Mandela or formal relations between the black South African organization and Israel until Israel changed its policy and actions regarding the Palestinians. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] The eight members of the Youth League of the ANC came to Israel on a visit organized by the South African Jewish Students Union. During their 12-day stay, they toured the country and held meetings with Israeli politicians, Knesset members, and Palestinian leaders. At a press conference to sum up their visit, the deputy president of the Youth League (Lulu Johnson) and the organization's spokesman (Parkes Markalana) acknowledged some amazing achievements by Israel, but not when it came to the Palestinians. Human rights violations, collective punishment, the killing of what they called Palestinian activists, Israeli settlements in the territories, not to mention Israel's rejection of talks with the PLO, and of course, deportations, were just some of the wrongs which Israel must end.

[(Markalana)] We are a movement that is involved in struggling. We support very much the struggle of the Palestinian people. We think that problem should be resolved. Yesterday, we had a meeting with Mr. Shim'on Peres, and we impressed to him that the right of the Palestinian people must be respected, and the problem of Palestine should be resolved as soon as possible.

[Ben-'Ami] [words indistinct] in more with Israeli government official policies than Israelis in general. The majority of people in Israel do want peace, said (Johnson). But even when talking about things that have impressed them, including the kibbutz system and Israel's integration of Jewish immigrants, the articulate young black South African could not help mixing praise with criticism.

[(Johnson)] There are problems in so far as the Arab community are discriminated against, that has been very clear. It has been demonstrated effectively by Palestinian and Arab Israeli leaders. But we think Israel has made significant advances economically and technologically, also even in the social field. The way they have managed to provide social amenities to their people, we think there is a lot to learn from them.

[Ben-'Ami] But until Israeli Government policies change, they said, they could not recommend formal relations or an official visit to Israel by ANC leader Nelson Mandela, but at the same time they did indicate a keenness for maintaining unofficial contacts, and even further visits in the future. [end recording]

Papers Differ on Deportees' Return Following UN Report

TA2701134693

[Editorial Report] In their 27 January editions, two Israeli dailies carry editorials discussing the steps Israel has to take in view of the report by the UN secretary general recommending that the UN Security Council impose sanctions on Israel if it refuses to implement Resolution 799, which calls for the return of the deported Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ's page-B1 editorial entitled "Cancel the Deportation" calls on Rabin to immediately return the deportees. The editorial says: "As time goes by, it becomes clearer that the deportation of the 415 Hamas activists was a grave mistake. It did not help the war on terrorism, and got us entangled in an international quandary."

"Determined to adhere to the hasty and mistaken line he has adopted, the prime minister might lead the State of Israel straight into a confrontation with the UN Security Council.

"If we reach the deadline with the deportees still on Lebanese soil, we can expect the United Nations to pass a resolution imposing sanctions on us, and there is no certainty that the United States would veto it.

"Even if the High Court of Justice rules in favor of the government, the Security Council is not bound to drop its demand according to Resolution 799. It is not always politically wise to adhere to things that may be legal according to Israeli law. Yitzhaq Rabin should not wait for the court ruling and should not count on the U.S. Administration siding with him. If he is wise and not just proud, he will suggest that the government cancel the deportation decision and return the deportees."

Urging the opposite, Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew carries an editorial on page 2 entitled "Do Not Panic." The editorial says that "today, since it became involved in Iraq, Yugoslavia, and Somalia, the United Nations seems leaner." It is now threatening to impose sanctions against Israel, in view of which, "we might get scared by

the possibility that pretty soon we might find ourselves internationally defined as matching mad Saddam and women-raping Serbia."

HADASHOT states that "it is, therefore, important that we remember several facts which, though quite banal, are very relevant to our lives: The deportation of the Hamas activists followed a series of murders. The deportation has indeed achieved its main goals: It stopped the chain of killings and, using violent means—justified in this case—hurt the leadership that sends the Hamas men on their murderous missions. As will be recalled, Hamas does not only call for the elimination of the State of Israel; it enthusiastically wants to kill us." "The issue is about our immediate need to protect ourselves."

HADASHOT maintains that "the deportees affair can certainly end without a crisis; for example, they could be moved to the security zone; for example, the United States could veto a too wild Security Council resolution. It is important that we do not rush to wipe out the blood Hamas has spilled."

Rabin Urged To Return Deportees

TA2701125593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jan 93 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "It Is Up to Rabin"]

[Text] Those who regard the television quiz on the deportees as evidence of the weakening of the prime minister and the formation of a majority of ministers opposed to him on such an important issue are mistaken. Quite the opposite is true. It is a good example to show that Yitzhaq Rabin holds the reins of the cabinet carriage even if the horses prefer grazing secretly behind his back. They are small-fry heroes, those ministers, not only because they avoided saying what they had to say to his face, but also because what they did underlined the differences between them and him: He bears responsibility while they shirk it.

UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's hard-line stand in the report he presented Monday further strengthens those who support returning the deportees —if that was needed—and is added to the long list of arguments supporting that stand. When I listed them here last weekend, the call for a bold decision was aimed at the prime minister and not his ministers. Since the election, we have been living under government style influenced by the direct election of the prime minister even before it is officially instituted. Despite his narrow majority in the Knesset, Rabin is in full control. He is the address for everything, and the fact that the ministers were scared to come to him with their reservations about the expulsion only increases that impression.

Rabin passed the original decision unanimously, despite David Liba'i's mumbling reservations. He does not have an assured majority on everything, just as none of his predecessors did. His lack of success in getting government approval for the punitive campaign against Lebanon several months ago is added to the many initiatives not approved by previous Israeli governments, starting with Ben-Gurion and up to Begin, despite these leaders' compelling authority. On most other issues, however, Rabin gets what he wants.

The difference between him and his ministers is the level of their self- confidence. The positions of individual ministers in the telephone poll showed to what extent the top echelons of the coalition parties, including the energetic Meretz ministers, felt a need to take into consideration swings in public opinion. They did not have the courage to confront the prime minister, but at the same time found it necessary to wink at the man in the street (and their supporters in the party primaries) over Rabin's shoulder and signal that they also have hidden doubts about the wisdom of the expulsion.

The prime minister's stubbornness is not always a virtue to be praised, but because of his job and his responsibility, it is much harder for him to change his position. Ministers can say one thing, and then another—yes here, no there—but the moment Rabin changes his mind, he drags the government behind him to make a decision. He easily pulled all the ministers behind him on the speedy expulsion move, and had no problem in making them change their stands, even before they started to whisper into telephones with frightened and hoarse voices.

From that point of view, the ministers did the opposite of what political wisdom should have dictated. Instead of working inside the cabinet to try to get Rabin to change his mind, they caused him to dig in on his positions because of their secret whispering and in the face of what Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau called "those nonentities". It is not a totally inept government with most ministers conspiring against it (as was claimed in the two arguments used in the no-confidence motion presented by the Likud and the National Religious Party), but rather a group making a wrong navigational judgment while trying to extricate itself from the mess it got into, just as it was mistaken in getting involved in the matter in the first place.

All that should not, however, prevent Rabin from acting on his indisputable leadership of the government and putting an end to the big mistake. What prevents him from doing that now? The main reason is very simple. He is apparently still not convinced that a big mistake was made. Even when the prime minister is sure that what he did was right, there is sometimes an accumulation of circumstances—as took place in recent weeks—which must force him to cave in.

The other difficulty, besides self-conviction, is the unpleasantness of the matter. It is already clear that there has been no improvement in the struggle against terrorism, that there is no real support for the expulsion among the political leadership, and that the international storm is growing. What is still separating Rabin from a

decision to bring back the deportees (and their incarceration, interrogation, and trial) is the disgrace. But no Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] celebrations to mark the return of the deportees and their being thrown into jail should deter him from such a move. There is no reason to be worried that bringing them back would not be supported by the automatic majority that favored the expulsion in a dubious public opinion poll. The moment Rabin wants to bring them back, the same majority will be found to favor that decision.

We view this as clear proof of his clout. Rabin does not for the time being have any problem in getting support for any of his decisions. He expelled—great! He decided to bring them back—what a man! The issue must therefore now be decided only by him. Is he truly, truly convinced that the continued expulsion serves the national interest? The courage he must find to answer that does not belong to the political sphere. On the local scene he can continue to do whatever he wishes. It calls for personal courage, of the kind he knows very well from the dozens of years he made complex decisions in a variety of command posts.

On that, what his ministers said publicly or secretly is of no significance. The loneliness of a leader in making such decisions is the tough situation facing him now over a mistaken decision he made previously. It will be very interesting to see how he deals with it.

Commentator Views Rabin's Isolation

TA2601172593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Jan 93 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Alon: "Lonely at the Top"]

[Text] None of the cabinet ministers (except for the newly appointed Yosi Sarid) was seated around the government table last week in the Knesset plenum when Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin answered queries and motions to the agenda for over two hours. The opposition benches were mostly empty, too. Rabin resembled a lone soldier in the battlefield as he heatedly argued with the Likud Knesset members [MK] who kept heckling him with provocative catcalls.

This sight illustrates the loneliness the prime minister has been recently feeling in the cabinet. Earlier this week Rabin was the only cabinet member who criticized the Israel Prize Committee's decision to award the prestigious prize to Professor Yesha'yahu Leibowitz. No one, not even Shim'on Shetrit, Yisra'el Qeysar, and Ya'aqov Tzur (considered close to Rabin) opened his mouth. Ministers who attended the cabinet session said that Rabin was furious, directed his criticism at Education Minister Shulamit Aloni, and asked for the names of the committee members who recommended that the prize be awarded to Leibowitz.

This was not a one-time event. The prime minister frequently finds himself in the minority and fails to impose his hawkish views on the majority of the cabinet ministers. To abstain from airing his positions, he occasionally chooses to vote with his feet and fails to report for Knesset votes. One case in point was Rabin's conspicuous absence from the Knesset plenum last week during the vote on the amendment to the law banning meetings with the PLO. Rabin also absented himself from the building when the amendment was submitted to the Knesset for its first reading. He wanted to hold up its approval until U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton entered the White House for fear that the U.S. Administration might interpret it as Israeli legitimization of a resumption of the dialogue between the United States and the PLO. Only when MK's of Labor, Meretz, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], and the Arab Democratic Party threatened to submit private bills, did Rabin grudgingly agree to have the cabinet approve the amendment. All the same, he boycotted the vote in the Knesset.

Rabin also failed to show up in the Knesset for the vote on the right wing's proposal to curtail the movements of HADASH MK Hashim Mahamid due to his pronouncements during a tour of Gaza. Dovish Labor MK's were angry about the prime minister's absence, which they took to mean that he favored punishing Mahamid.

Rabin's behavior over 'Ezer Weizman's election as Labor's candidate for the presidency also raised some eyebrows. The prime minister did not want Weizman to be elected because of past rancors and tensions, which culminated in Weizman's disclosure on the eve of Rabin's decision to run for Labor party chairman, that Rabin had suffered a nervous breakdown during the Six-Day War. Rabin wanted his long time friend, Supreme Court President Me'ir Shamgar, to succeed Hayim Herzog at the presidential residence, but he did nothing to promote his candidate.

The prime minister apparently decided to lower his profile and abstain from engaging in a battle over the issue because of his defeats in previous internal party contests. Rabin had passionately favored the election of Yuval Frenkel as Labor's secretary general, but the job was won by Nisim Zvili, a close associate of Peres. He suffered yet another defeat in the election of the chairman of the Knesset faction. His choice was MK Hagay Marom, but most faction members opted for Eli Dayan, a Peres follower.

No doubt, this would not have happened to Yitzhaq Shamir. The former prime minister would stand as a bulwark in the face of any attempt to stray from his policies. When Shamir firmly objected to the law for the direct election of the prime minister, nobody (with the exception of Binyamin Netanyahu) dared challenge him. All of them, including the most ardent advocates of the law, voted against it. When Shamir sought to include Rehav'am Ze'evi, the man bearing the banner of a population transfer, in his cabinet nobody stood in his way (not even Dan Meridor or Ehud Olmert, who objected to the idea). When he conducted a policy of sit-and-do-nothing in the peace negotiations and made

every possible effort "to play for time" in the talks with the Palestinian delegation, nobody in his cabinet or in his faction questioned him.

In contrast, at the end of six months, Rabin (the man who was elected in quasi-direct elections and declared "I will decide, I will determine, I will appoint") finds himself lonely at the top. From the moment he became the head of the most moderate government Israel has ever had, he has gone to great lengths to remain faithful to his hawkish political views, as manifested during his term as defense minister in the national unity government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir. On the other hand, most Labor ministers and MK's hold dovish opinions which conflict with his world view. They openly favor direct talks with the PLO. They have been thwarting his wish to expand the government basis by integrating the right-wing Tzomet and National Religious Party [NRP]. They forced him to strengthen the dovish flank of his cabinet by including Yosi Sarid. They have been urging him to grant humanitarian aid to the deportees, and some of them even regret voting in favor of the deportation of 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists.

As far as Rabin's status within his party is concerned, the most serious point is that most ministers side with his avowed rival, Shim'on Peres, or at least subscribe to his dovish positions—and Rabin must definitely be aware of it. To get out of this tangle Rabin has two alternatives: to tone down his rigid positions and adapt them to the position of most Labor ministers and MK's or to proceed at once to strengthen the hawkish flank of his cabinet by including Tzomet and/or the NRP, or else see his status and image deteriorate even further.

Arabs Wounded in Clashes in Territories 26 Jan

TA2601203893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] An inhabitant of the Qatif bloc was wounded in the face this evening when his car came under a hail of stones near the Erez crossing. He was evacuated to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon for treatment.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a firebomb was thrown this evening at an Israeli car driving through the village of Baytuniya near Ramallah. The firebomb ignited on the roof of the car, but nobody was hurt and the car only sustained light damage. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol arriving on the scene was attacked with a firebomb which shattered on the roof of the jeep. The soldiers were not hurt. They returned fire and began searching the area.

Shots were fired at an Israeli car in Khan Yunus this morning, but nobody was hurt.

Inhabitants of the Gaza Strip said 13 locals were wounded today in clashes with the security forces.

It was reported from Nabulus that two people were hurt by gunfire opened by an IDF patrol after it was pelted with stones.

Gunman Killed in Gaza, Youth Wounded in Nabulus

TA2701115093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Security forces this morning killed an armed gunman in Gaza City. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the terrorist was a member of the Islamic Jihad organization. An Army patrol spotted him as he was trying to shoot at soldiers. The soldiers opened fire, killing him. They discovered he had been carrying a gun and a grenade. Military sources say the terrorist was almost certainly planning an attack, which was aborted by the soldiers.

In Nabulus a 17-year-old resident was wounded by Army fire this morning after he reportedly threw rocks at an Israeli bus. He was taken to a hospital.

King Discusses Regional Upheavals, Democracy

JN2601195093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that the human endeavor to attain dignity, liberty, and the right to the freedom of expression is an abiding concern. History, his majesty added, always moves forward. We have opted for freedom, democracy, and human rights and a share in the responsibility of upholding the cause of right and freedom. We will march into the future with all the resolve we can muster to further the advancement of our homeland and our Arab nation while the world suffers from a lack of a single objective and humanitarian standard for addressing its problems.

In a meeting with representatives of the Jordanian media at the Royal Hashemite Court today, his majesty underlined the need to establish justice and a just, comprehensive, and viable peace that must meet the satisfaction of future generations, which will, therefore, safeguard and protect them. His majesty feared that an absence of justice and the application of double standards will trigger upheavals in the region, igniting sectarian and ethnic conflicts with monstrous consequences. Our primary concern, his majesty the king went on to say, is to maintain Jordan's national unity and the cohesion of our internal front, and to shield it from all possible dangers, especially given the distressing ruptures, fragmentation, and extremism plaguing the world which highlights the horrors engendered by despair, frustration, and ignorance.

Turning to the question of political parties, His Majesty King Husayn said our Jordanian society is capable of bringing forth young and true patriots who can take the initiative. Given the present circumstances, his majesty added, there is no reason parliamentary elections cannot be held on time as provided in the Constitution. He urged a heavy turnout in the next elections, now that the foundations of democracy are firmly established. With democracy now a way of life in Jordan, his majesty said, Jordanian citizens should shoulder their national responsibilities.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif.

UN Efforts To Pressure Israel Welcomed

JN2701151193 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Jan 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "A Positive Step for the United Nations"]

[Text] It seems that the exaggerated Israeli intransigence has provoked the UN secretary general. The United Nations gave Israel an important opportunity and ample time to reconsider its position on the issue of the deportees and to return these deportees to their homeland. Indeed, Butrus-Ghali sent envoys to Israel on three separate occasions to convince Rabin's government of the need to return the Palestinian deportees to their homes and kinfolk in compliance with Security Council Resolution 799.

However, it became clear that Rabin's government received encouragement from the new U.S. Administration. Therefore, it exaggerated its challenge of the Security Council and its resolutions and those of the entire international community. This only served to provoke Butrus-Ghali and his envoys. Moreover, the expanded political and media campaign which faced the United Nations as a result of its double standards and use of more than one yardstick to deal with issues, made it feel that its credibility and global confidence in its role are becoming shaky. Hence, Butrus-Ghali quickly called on the UN Security Council to force Israel into implementing Resolution 799, respecting the resolutions of international legitimacy, and returning the deportees to their homeland. This is a positive step by the United Nations which must be entrenched.

If the United Nations continues its true designated role and respects its own resolutions, free of U.S. influence and pressure, Israel will find itself obliged to implement the UN Security Council resolutions. Otherwise, this international organization will, on its own, paralyze itself and its role will no longer be justified.

From this premise, one can say that the United Nations has put itself in a difficult situation. It either maintains its credibility and just role, respects its resolutions, and uses a single standard in dealing with all regional and international issues, or else it will find itself isolated and nothing more than a pawn in American hands.

Rabin Visits Security Strip, Denies Coveting South

NC2601150293 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1430 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] During a visit to Marj'uyun a short time ago, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Israel does not covet any of the security strip and views the region as part of Lebanon. Rabin met with General Lahd and senior Israeli Army officers. Rabin praised the role of the South Lebanese Army, notably that of Commander Antoine Lahd.

Asked about UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's proposal to send a UN force to the Israeli-occupied territories, Rabin said Butrus- Ghali's report was unfair, adding that the UN chief was mistaken because he ignored the spirit of the acts of violence perpetrated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Buwayz Wants Israel Punished for Violating Resolution

NC2601201493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz believes it would be very dangerous if Israel is not punished for violating Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for the return of the deported Palestinians. Buwayz adds that if the United Nations wants to preserve its credibility, the Security Council must approve the secretary general's recommendations on Resolution 799.

Notes U.S. Bid To Defuse 'Crisis'

NC2701125193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1212 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Beirut, 27 Jan (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has described the U.S. call to solve the Palestinian deportees' issue through active diplomacy as an attempt by Washington to defuse the crisis that erupted between the United Nations and Israel after the UN secretary general asked Israel to abide by Resolution 799.

The Lebanese foreign minister said the U.S. position aims to delay the issue until a solution is found that will not impose sanctions on Israel. The United States has not proposed its diplomatic solution to the issue, he added.

In a statement to MENA, Minister Buwayz said no diplomatic proposals were made by any international side after the failure of the three missions in Israel by the UN envoy. Buwayz praised Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali's report asking Israel to implement the Security Council resolution. He said the report is serious, trustworthy, and balanced, reflecting international satisfaction. The Lebanese foreign minister added that the Security Council must find a practical and immediate mechanism to implement the Security Council resolution to return the deportees to their homeland immediately as stipulated by Resolution 799 and according to the contents of the secretary general's report. This will enable the Security Council to gain credibility for implementing its resolutions impartially.

The Lebanese foreign minister said he has no information on intentions and tendencies inside the Security Council or on whether there is a possibility of postponing its session until the Israeli supreme court decides whether the deportation decision is legal. [passage omitted]

Deportees See U.S. Aiding Israel, Threaten Hunger Strike

NC2701121193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, threatened today that the deportees will go on a hunger strike for 24 hours to protest the demolition of their homes and the killing of their children in the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement, al-Rantisi said the United States is trying to help Israel ride out its crisis by proposing a solution to the deportees' issue outside the United Nations.

Clinton's Call for Change, Renewal Praised

NC2601214593 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 21 Jan 93 p 3

[From the "Inspired by the Events" column by Fu'ad Da'bul: "He Carried the Torch of Change and Began Walking"]

[Text] President William Clinton recalled the pronouncements of Thomas Jefferson to chose "change" as a slogan for his era.

Change means renewal and development, not demolition of all existing values. The new U.S. President, therefore, was eager to remind the Americans of Jefferson's belief "that to preserve the very foundations of our nation, we would need dramatic change from time to time." He then urged the Americans "to embrace" this.

The young American President cannot be young and opposed to "change" at the same time. He cannot find himself in an ever changing world and remain hostage to "the old American".

Clinton broke free of his "campaign promises and restrictions" by calling for "a new America" through a collective American action in which the Democrats, returning to the White House after a decade of absence; the Republicans; those who voted for Ross Perot; and all other Americans will get involved in renewing the face of the strongest empire in the world.

In this, he seems like his great predecessor and model, John F. Kennedy, who emerged at the early sixties, defeating Richard Nixon, Eisenhower's deputy and rival, with the slogan of ridding America of the "ugly American," who

dominated Southeast Asia, and whose practices drove the nations of that region toward communism.

Kennedy sought to polish the image of the American and stop "communist expansion," which was growing in the form of rebellions and uprisings in various places. But Clinton, whom the Americans loved because they saw in him Kennedy's features and image, wrested the rule from the Republicans after the fall of the Soviet Union and the communist empire and the emergence of the American empire as the "owner" of the entire world.

It is as though the United State were the Ottoman Empire in its heyday. As though the modern American empire fears it may face the same fate as the old Ottoman one. Clinton, therefore, called for changing America as it stands at the doorstep of its third century.

Clinton found himself amid a changing world, so he jumped on the bandwagon of change, and led it to the White House.

As for us in Lebanon, we are kept in a frozen world, trying to cover ourselves with inaction at times, and with a backward movement at others.

It is as though we were aliens in this world.

Can you imagine a homeland so fragile that some fear it may collapse if a letter in its Constitution is changed, or if a comma in its system is moved from the middle of the line to its end?

The world is awaiting "the rule of the emperor".

Everybody hopes he will support them, and Lebanon is no exception.

But the "emperor" is awaiting the change in America so as to call on the entire world to carry the torch of change.

Clinton carried the torch and began to walk. Will the others join the parade?

U.S. Policy Change Under Clinton Depends on Arabs

NC2601214893 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 21 Jan 93 p 14

[From the "Hot Issues" column by Kamal Zubyan]

[Excerpts] New U.S. President Bill Clinton has assumed his constitutional duties. A new Democratic President has entered the White House after a 12-year absence. [passage omitted]

Clinton will inherit from his predecessor complicated international crises not easily resolved, particularly since there are contradictory standards and dual criteria. The most prominent of these issues is the question of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which all U.S. Administrations, Republican and Democratic alike, view with one eye closed and a full bias toward "Israel." Clinton is, in fact, known for his stands in favor of the Hebrew state and his absolute support for guaranteeing its security, military superiority, and strategic relations with the United States.

Thus, the Arabs do not view the arrival of Clinton with much comfort, but they are willing to give him a chance and test his position on the "peace" talks and the implementation of international resolutions. In his pro-Zionist political inclination, candidate Clinton went all the way, a tradition in the Democratic Party. But will Clinton the President change once he attains a position of responsibility and pursue a different, or at least, an impartial, policy? It is doubtful that the new President will change or that his administration will stand alongside the Arabs. This, however, has less to do with U.S. power and influence than with Arab weakness, fragmentation, lack of solidarity, and the fact that many of the Arab regimes are subservient to U.S. policy.

Clinton's approach or policies will not change if the Arabs do not adopt a firm position on their pan-Arab and national rights and highlight their regional and international prominence. A change in the Arabs' policy of acquiescence to the United States will make the latter change its position toward them, respect their decisions, and treat them with respect. Regardless of any change in the U.S. Administration, unless the Arabs regain their identity and power they will not be able to change the views of this administration or its policy regarding the Arab causes.

Editor Urges Expulsion of Americans From Arab Land

NC2601221093 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 20 Jan 93 p 1

["Al-DIYAR's Truth" column by chief editor Charles Ayyub: "Call Out for the Free Men"]

[Text] We do not care about Saddam Husayn. We have long opposed his adventurous decisions, which endanger the capabilities of the homeland. However, we will not curse Saddam or call for his trial to appease others.

What matters for us is Iraq, the Iraqi people, Iraq's sovereignty, Iraq's territorial integrity, and Iraq's popular, moral, and material energies.

"Call out for the free men" is the slogan that needs to be raised now in the Arab world against an octopus of U.S. resolutions in favor of Israel and against the Arabs.

Call out for the free men. Baghdad is being shelled by rockets, civilians are being martyred by missiles, and Israel is strengthening its nuclear arsenal while the majority of the Arabs are looking the other way.

Call out for the free men, for the sword of Arabism, and for the heroes. We yearn for the time of heroism, for death for the sake of the homeland, and for martyrdom to preserve dignity, pride, and might.

Call out for the free men. Baghdad is being burned by the Americans, with or without reason, and the Jews are

obtaining all the weapons they need from Washington, which is now destroying Iraq.

Call out for the free men, for Cairo, Damascus, Amman, Beirut, and wounded, estranged Palestine. Call out for Aden and the revolutionaries. Despotism and coercion have goon beyond all limits. The pure blood of the free men must run in the veins of the Arabs; perhaps it will repulse this American despotism against our countries.

Call out for the free men. The Americans must be expelled from our countries. We must be the masters and free men of the land. We will continue to call out until the free men—and there are many—respond. At that time, the aggressor Americans will know the price of their crimes against our people, the price of their support for Israel, and the price of destroying Iraq and killing its innocent people.

NPO Leader on Sidon Strike To Protest Army Acts

NC2601151493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The city of Sidon today staged a general strike in response to a call by the city's expanded nationalist Islamic gathering to protest the practices of some Lebanese Army elements and the manner in which the Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] offices were stormed yesterday. The strike was observed to a great degree and included the 'Ayn al-Hulawh and al-Miyah Wa Miyah Palestinian camps. [passage omitted]

NPO leader Deputy Mustafa Sa'd was contacted by Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah and Deputy 'Ali 'Ammar.

Deputy Sa'd made a statement thanking all the citizens who responded to the call for a peaceful strike to protest the Army's uncivilized conduct, which is out of step with the climate of national accord, the national reconstruction plans, and Lebanese laws.

Deputy Sa'd added: We reiterate that the Army's role is to protect the borders and direct all rifles toward the Israeli army to liberate our occupied lands in the south and western al-Biqa'. This means that the Lebanese Army must withdraw from city streets and go to the barracks and take military positions on the lines of confrontation with the enemy, he said. Sa'd added that the internal security forces should be entrusted with following up security and judiciary matters in Lebanese cities and villages, a task provided for by the al-Ta'if Agreement and the Lebanese Constitution. [passage omitted]

Citing NPO sources, our correspondent reports that Army elements are still on roofs of buildings adjacent to NPO headquarters and are taking positions in the Ramzi al-Shabb and Rashid al-Khuri hospitals, close to the headquarters.

Cypriot Seized at Beirut Airport With Explosives

NC2701092293 Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS in Greek 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Excerpts] A Cypriot was arrested yesterday at Beirut airport with explosives in his possession. Nikos Sillouris, 22, an Athens Law School graduate from Nicosia, was due to arrive in Cyprus at noon aboard Middle East Airlines flight 261. [passage omitted]

According to reports received by O FILELEVTHEROS, a police source said Sillouris tried to leave Cyprus for Beirut last Friday but was stopped because he had no visa. He left the next day after obtaining one. [passage omitted]

REUTER reported from Beirut that Lebanese police arrested a Cypriot at Beirut airport with explosives in his belt and suitcase, which had been loaded on the plane bound for Cyprus.

According to security sources, half a stick of dynamite and 50 grams of the powerful explosive Semtex were found in his belt. Eight sticks of dynamite were also found hidden in a cassette recorder. [passage omitted]

Magazine Details Iran's Payments to Hizballah, Fadlallah

NC2001083493 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 18 Jan 93 p 8

[Report: "Iran's Major Expenses in Lebanon"]

[Text] Security sources list Iran's major monthly expenses in Lebanon as follows:

Some $50 million for Hizballah, $3 million for al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, $1 million for the Khomeyni Supplies Institution [mu'assasat al-khumini li al-imdad], which distributes aid to the poor and needy, and $1 million for each network [itar] operating in Lebanon. These networks are directly affiliated to the Iranian Embassy and receive instructions from Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Hasan Akhtari.

Hizballah pays each full-time member between $150 and $200. Hizballah has approximately 4,000 full-time security, military, and administrative elements. Each official in charge of the district offices—there are nine in Beirut's southern suburb—receives $750 plus living and medical allowances and a private car.

Phalangist Leader Sa'adah Discusses Party Problems

NC2301160593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] In an interview on the "Saturday Salon" program, Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah, said that the problem within the party is not about local party heads. The problem, he said, is about people who want to wheel and deal. The party will not abandon its rights, he said.

The Phalangist leader said he is willing to do what it takes to ensure that party decision No. 6314 [reference to party decision banning dissidents from attending Phalangist meetings] is correctly implemented. Dr. Sa'adah reviewed the background for that decision and the consultations he held with members of the Phalangist Party's Consultative Committee on the issue.

Sa'adah disclosed that he will make a number of proposals at the upcoming Phalangist Party's Political Bureau meeting, set for Monday [25 January]. He also reiterated his promise to discuss all relevant issues at the Phalangist Party's next general congress. He said that solutions should be found to the current problems and that differences should be resolved within the party, not through the news media.

Khaddam Interviewed on Iraq, Other Topics

PM2601141393 London AL-WASAT in Arabic
25-31 Jan 93 pp 17-21

[Interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by Zaki Shihab in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Shihab] Let us begin with your visit to Tehran earlier this month during which you met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and senior Iranian officials. What did this visit achieve?

[Khaddam] We are working with the brothers in Tehran to achieve cooperation and coordination in the various spheres concerning the two countries. The regular Syrian-Iranian meeting was held in Tehran this time. The agenda included a number of important topics, including a discussion of the international situation, the regional situation, bilateral relations, and developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, in addition to other issues.

We also discussed the situation in the Gulf region and relations between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran. During the discussions we reached conclusions on many questions, including the need to establish friendly and normal relations of cooperation between Iran and the Arab Gulf states and the need to work to end the dispute between Iran and the UAE in a friendly way and in a manner that helps develop relations between them.

[Shihab] What was the outcome of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's visit to the UAE in this connection?

[Khaddam] It is natural for Syria to play a role in ending the problem between fraternal UAE and Iran, a Muslim and friendly country. And it is natural for us to put our brothers in the UAE in the picture with regard to the discussions held and to brief them on what we have achieved. This is why President Hafiz al-Asad assigned Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to go to Abu Dhabi with a message from President al-Asad to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan on our visit to Tehran.

[Shihab] Have these contacts produced any positive results so far, and will they lead to a solution of the islands crisis?

[Khaddam] We believe that the Iranian and UAE leaderships have sufficient desire and wisdom to help them to end the problem. We sensed a desire to end this problem on the part of our brothers in the UAE and Tehran. It is not useful to reveal in the media what has been said here or there. There are matters which will be announced when they are achieved.

[Shihab] What is Syria's position on the military strikes launched against Iraq by the alliance states (the United States, Britain, and France) after the "missile crisis" and the Iraqi regime's refusal to comply with a number of the Security Council resolutions concerning the occupation and the second Gulf war?

[Khaddam] As is well known, we opposed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, as in the past we opposed Iraq's invasion of Iran. Since 1970 Syria has opposed policies based on recklessness and adventure. And without doubt some Iraqi elements' infiltration of the border with Kuwait was wrong and should not have happened. But for the three states to launch a raid on Iraq because of its failure to implement the UN Security Council resolutions at a time when Israel is defying the international community and international legitimacy and rejecting Security Council Resolution 799 concerning the Palestinian deportees' return to their land and at a time when no one is exerting real pressure on the Israeli Government to compel it to implement the resolution... this situation causes one to wonder. The resolutions of international legitimacy should be respected by everyone and applied to everyone. Everyone should be compelled to respect them. This is our position.

[Shihab] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to Damascus and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad ended a few hours before the alliance forces hit Iraq. Was the situation in Iraq discussed in detail during President Mubarak's talks in Damascus?

[Khaddam] First of all, Egypt and Syria are interested in Iraq's unity and there is a real threat to the unity of this fraternal country. We note that there are many actions and movements aimed at fragmenting Iraq. And it is natural for this to be a source of concern for Syria, Egypt, and all Arabs.

[Shihab] Do you believe that Iraq's fragmentation is a real and serious threat as long as Saddam Husayn is in power?

[Khaddam] Without doubt the regime existing in Iraq now is playing—through its practices—a major role in creating the conditions which enable Iraq's enemies and the Arabs' enemies to sow the seeds of fragmentation. The persecution operations from which the Iraqi people are suffering, the state of despair the Iraqis are experiencing, and the state of bitterness and pain they are suffering as a result of the present regime's practices and policies represent suitable conditions for Iraq's fragmentation. The present regime in Iraq is responsible for the harm being inflicted on Iraq and for what is threatening the future of this country.

[Shihab] Why has the Iraqi opposition failed to unite? And do you believe it is capable of becoming an alternative to the present Iraqi regime?

[Khaddam] There is Iraqi opposition inside Iraq and opposition outside Iraq. The main Iraqi opposition has not failed to achieve unity. There is serious coordination between the main influential opposition forces on the Iraqi scene. And there are persons and organizations that have no presence inside Iraq, but, rather, have a presence in exile. There are differences among these formations because they live in comfortable conditions. As for the

opposition formations inside Iraq, they coordinate among themselves and cooperate in the interests of the country.

[Shihab] On what is coordination and cooperation among Turkey, Iran, and Syria based with regard to the Iraqi question? Will this take advanced forms at the next meetings among the three countries' officials?

[Khaddam] The three countries neighbor Iraq, and it is natural for them to get worried as a result of the attempts taking place—encouraged by some international parties—to fragment Iraq. This is why we met in Ankara in December and a meeting will be held in Damascus next month to follow up the discussions and do what should be done to stop the actions and interventions designed to fragment Iraq. The three countries are interested in Iraq and its unity, because fragmentation would be a catastrophe for the Arabs first and the region second.

[Shihab] Has Syria received assurances from Iranian and Turkish officials that they have no ambitions over Iraq's territory?

[Khaddam] The Turks and the Iranians—as we heard from them—stress that they have no regional ambitions in Iraq.

[Shihab] Do you believe that the Damascus declaration among the six Gulf Cooperation Council states, Egypt, and Syria still stands and is valid, or does it need to be amended?

[Khaddam] The matter concerns first and last the need of our brothers in the Gulf for the Damascus declaration, an understanding on whose content was reached as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and Egypt's and Syria's clear position on this invasion. That is on the basis that it would be a base for joint Arab action and for correcting the joint Arab march.

Naturally we in Syria and Egypt support our brothers in the Gulf, as in the past. We extend to them a helping hand at the time they deem right and in the way they deem useful.

[Shihab] In your view, will the issue of the Palestinians deported to Lebanon affect the next Arab-Israeli negotiations, or will the deportees file be added to the other files being negotiated among the parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute?

[Khaddam] We believe that we should all work to compel Israel to end this problem. Without doubt Israel's taking of this action or similar actions is bound not to create a favorable atmosphere for advancing the peace march.

[Shihab] Syria considered and continues to consider the Palestinian issue its first issue. What is the nature of the existing coordination between the Syrian leadership and the PLO, especially with regard to the peace negotiations?

[Khaddam] Coordination is conducted via the meetings of the foreign ministers of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine. Coordination is conducted within this framework.

[Shihab] Is there coordination regarding dealing with the Palestinian deportees issue? And is there an understanding on boycotting the next Arab-Israeli negotiations if the Rabin government refuses to return the deportees?

[Khaddam] With regard to the Palestinian deportees issue, we are making major international efforts and extensive contacts to exert pressure on Israel to compel it to backtrack and return these combatants to their country and families. At any rate, it is difficult to talk about what can be done at a time that has not come yet. We do not want to link one matter to another. We believe that Security Council Resolution 799 needs to be implemented, just as another Arab country is being forced to implement UN Security Council resolutions.

[Shihab] UN Security General Dr. Butrus-Ghali urged the UN Security Council chairman to take measures and impose sanctions against Israel. What is required of the United Nations and its secretary general at this stage, in particular with regard to the deportees issue?

[Khaddam] What is required of the Security Council—and it knows what measures it should take—is to take suitable measures which make the Israelis feel that they must reconsider their unjust decision.

[Shihab] Would Syria agree to reach a peace agreement with Israel without the achievement of any progress in the negotiations on the other fronts?

[Khaddam] Our policy is clear. We want a comprehensive solution on all the fronts. This is why we did not accept Syrian-Israeli negotiations without the existence of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, Lebanese-Israeli negotiations, and Jordanian-Israeli negotiations. We adhere to a comprehensive solution and to a solution on all the fronts. There is coordination among the negotiating Arab delegations. When we reach a stage which requires meetings the foreign ministers meet, discuss, and coordinate among themselves.

[Shihab] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres exploit any opportunity or any international media platform to express the desire to visit Damascus. What are Syria's conditions for receiving Rabin?

[Khaddam] Syria differs from others. We are in a state of war with Israel. And unless the causes of war disappear, it is out of the question to talk about the results of peace before the results of war have disappeared.

[Shihab] Are there any secret Syrian-Israeli contacts outside the framework of the Washington bilateral negotiations, and is it true that Syria and Israel are on the verge of agreement on a declaration of principles?

[Khaddam] There are no Syrian-Israeli secret contacts or meetings outside the framework of the Washington bilateral negotiations. I can also say that no progress was made in the rounds of negotiations with the Israelis. We are still at square one, but that does not mean that the peace process has reached a deadend or has failed. We will continue the talks. If we achieve satisfactory results that fulfill our national and pan-Arab objectives, then we would proceed on the same road. If not, then we would naturally stop.

[Shihab] What are your terms for a peace agreement with Israel?

[Khaddam] That the peace should be comprehensive and that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 should be implemented in a way that would lead to Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and guarantee the Palestinian people's national rights.

[Shihab] If the pace of the Arab-Israeli negotiations remains the same as it has been over the past 14 months, would you expect a peace agreement in 1993?

[Khaddam] It is difficult to predict, but if we take the Israeli positions and what the Israelis are doing into consideration, then we cannot be optimistic.

[Shihab] How do you assess the Rabin government's performance so far in comparison with the government of his predecessor Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Khaddam] Both operate in the context of the objectives of the Zionist movement. Both head governments which occupy Arab territories and persecute the Palestinian people and the Syrian and Lebanese people under occupation.

[Shihab] What do you expect from the administration of new U.S. President Clinton as far as the peace process is concerned?

[Khaddam] Actually, we have to wait and see. President Bill Clinton has confirmed that he will continue the U.S. efforts for a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the U.S. initiative. As to how he will proceed to achieve that, we do not know. There have been no contacts between the Arab parties concerned and the new U.S. Administration. We have to wait a while.

[Shihab] Former U.S. President George Bush's administration refused to erase Syria's name from the list of states considered by the United States to be "terrorist" states. Do you believe the new U.S. President Clinton will drop Syria's name from that list?

[Khaddam] That is a matter for the Americans. It does not concern us. They put Syria's name on the terrorism list as a way of putting pressure on Syria, but Syria is not the kind of country to give in to pressure. That U.S. decision has not affected us at all. They made the decision and it is up to them to reconsider. We have not been so affected by the decision as to seek a way of pleasing them or satisfying them so they rescind it.

[Shihab] Lebanon has achieved significant stability over the past period. What other steps are required to further boost national accord in all security, political, and economic fields?

[Khaddam] As a matter of fact, national accord is now an existing reality in Lebanon. The Lebanese Constitution has been amended in accordance with the national accord document (the al-Ta'if agreement), the Lebanese state institutions have been erected, and the state has regained its authority over all government organs and institutions. With the support of the Syrian forces, the Lebanese state is now maintaining security in various parts of Lebanon. Peace in Lebanon has taken major steps forward. We can say that it would now be almost impossible to go back to the state of war in Lebanon.

[Shihab] How do you view the current relations among Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri? Do you believe that the relationship between the members of the the Lebanese Government "troika," as it is called, is today better than it was before al-Hariri's cabinet was formed and before Birri was elected Chamber of Deputies speaker?

[Khaddam] We cannot speak of a government "troika" in Lebanon or a "troika" ruling Lebanon.

"Troika" means that the three leaders meet and decide everything for the country. The Lebanese political system is based on separation and cooperation of powers, each operating within its institution. There is coordination among the three institutions of the premiership, the Chamber of Deputies, and the presidency. It is in Lebanon's interest that the best kind and form of coordination should prevail among the three institutions.

[Shihab] Is there anything you wish to say to those who opposed the Lebanese Government from Paris and other capitals?

[Khaddam] We cannot say that those who oppose from abroad fully know the interests of Lebanon. They have been living abroad and have not suffered the effects and pains of the civil war, and they have not lived with the people who were dying every day. They live in comfort in good conditions. It is easy to talk and give advice. If they really want stability and progress for the country, then they should go to Lebanon with their wealth and should contribute to the march of peace and reconstruction alongside their Lebanese brothers.

[Shihab] Is the abolition of political sectarianism in Lebanon a matter of priority, and should it be urgently implemented or not?

[Khaddam] The root problem in Lebanon is the sectarian system. All the conflicts that have occurred in Lebanon were caused by sectarianism. That is why the national charter attached special importance to that matter and provided for the abolition of political sectarianism and the formation of a higher national committee

to draw up measures and steps to fulfill that objective. The one objective which has not been fulfilled so far, leaving the national accord process incomplete—an objective which I believe our brothers in Lebanon will seek to achieve—is abolition of sectarianism in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement.

[Shihab] Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, said in an interview with AL-WASAT that "the introduction of any form of unity or federation between Lebanon and Syria is something for the Lebanese themselves to decide." That implies that the United States does not object to unity between Lebanon and Syria if that is what the Lebanese want. How do you view that U.S. position?

[Khaddam] We do not make our decisions in the light of what others say.

[Shihab] Some Lebanese opposition leaders abroad are calling for the redeployment of Syrian forces in Lebanon in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement. In what circumstances would the redeployment of Syrian forces take place?

[Khaddam] As I have frequently said, the al-Ta'if agreement stipulates that Syria, in agreement with the Lebanese Government, will redeploy its forces two years after the constitutional ratification of the political reforms. If we go back to the chapter on political reforms we would find that some of these reforms have been ratified and some have not been discussed yet. If somebody asked why the two-year period, we would say that it was enshrined as a guarantee of ratification of the reforms because a large number of Lebanese feared that the reforms would not be ratified. That is one point. Another point is that Syrian-Lebanese relations are organized on the basis of a treaty between the two countries. Such a treaty exists. There is a higher council and there are committees and there is daily coordination between the two countries. As to when the Syrian forces will be deployed or redeployed, that is a matter for the Lebanese and the Syrians to decide. This matter concerns no one but the Lebanese and the Syrians.

[Shihab] As we are on the subject of the treaty between the two countries, there is a structure and institutions set up after the signing of the Fraternity, Coordination, and Cooperation Treaty to enhance and strengthen relations between the two countries. What of that has been accomplished and what still remains?

[Khaddam] Yes, there are committees and they meet. There is daily coordination between the committees and various organs, between the foreign ministries, between the security organs, and between the two premierships. There are continuous contacts on the basis of the treaty.

[Shihab] How do you assess the current Arab situation?

[Khaddam] There can be no doubt that the Arab nation is now going through difficult and crucial circumstances. Such circumstances are not new, but they were further complicated after the Iraqi regime's invasion of Kuwait. There is a state of disintegration of inter-Arab relations. Continuation of this situation is not in the interest of any Arab country. We believe that we should all be aware of the dangers posed by the continuation of this situation. While other states and nations historically hostile to one another are coming together to form new entities to face international developments, we see the Arabs becoming more disunited and more distant from one another. It is therefore our collective duty to grasp that fact and to overcome many secondary issues to safeguard the whole nation. The interests of the Arab nation's countries are secure when the nation as a whole is secure.

[Shihab] Do you see a need for an Arab summit conference?

[Khaddam] An Arab summit conference is necessary but it should be preceded by a series of preparations by the Arab states so that if a summit is held it would crown the settlement of a number of pending issues which stand in the way of unified Arab action.

[Shihab] With the elimination of the communist threat and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Western capitals are concentrating on Islam and the danger of the spread of fundamentalism. What do you think of that Western approach?

[Khaddam] That is basically a Zionist approach. When visiting Poland, Israeli President Hayim Herzog said in a speech that after the collapse of communism, the threat to world peace was now Islam. The campaign against Islam is primarily a Zionist campaign with a contribution by some Western circles. It is a campaign not against particular organizations but against Islamic culture and civilization.

[Shihab] Despite all the visits and meetings of Syrian and Turkish committees and officials, the water issue remains unresolved. How do you view that issue, and why is Turkey still refusing to implement relevant international treaties although implementing them where other states are concerned?

[Khaddam] Actually, we, Iraq, and Turkey have been unable to reach agreement on sharing the Euphrates water. There is a temporary agreement which specifies the quantities which Turkey should allow through until a final agreement is reached. This problem must be solved through negotiations among the three states, that is Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. We hope to resolve this matter between Syria and Iraq on the one hand and Turkey on the other in the near future.

[Shihab] At the end of every visit by a Turkish official to Damascus or a Syrian official to Ankara, statements are issued speaking of understanding, coordination, and agreement between the two states on water, yet no agreement has been reached with Turkey on this matter. How long will this continue?

[Khaddam] Turkey and Syria are two neighboring countries sharing an 800 km border. The two states have

some common interests and multiple relations. One of the foundations of our policy is that we endeavor to establish good relations with the Islamic states, especially the neighboring states. Of course problems occur here or there sometimes but the governments of the two countries deal with them in the context of the desire to maintain good relations. That is why meetings and contacts are held to discuss and resolve such issues. Water is one such issue. Talks are under way on the matter but so far no agreement has been reached. We hope to achieve such an agreement.

[Shihab] What is the limit of Syria's patience in this connection, particularly as Syria greatly depends on the Euphrates water? Will Syria resort to the International Court of Justice or other international organizations to settle the issue?

[Khaddam] There is a temporary agreement. True, it does not meet all our water needs but it does meet our minimum needs and therefore allows the discussions to continue with a view to reaching agreement.

[Shihab] For some time now you have been reviewing the charter and structure of the National Progressive Front in Syria. What is the latest on that, and what does it mean to you internally in the light of the international changes?

[Khaddam] We in the leadership of the National Progressive Front are considering developing the front, not reconsidering its charter. There is a difference between development and reconsideration of the charter. What is on is development, not revision of the charter. For that purpose discussions are taking place among the parties of the front. Agreement has been reached on several points. Some points are still under discussion.

[Shihab] What are the points and issues agreed upon?

[Khaddam] As these points have not been ratified yet, there is no point in publishing them.

Press Views U.S. Policy, Possible Christopher Visit

JN2401083793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that in his cable of congratulations to U.S. President Bill Clinton, President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated the hope that cooperation between Syria and the United States in the field of bilateral relations and the peace process will continue to be bolstered.

AL-THAWRAH explains that the Arabs, particularly Syria, have offered everything possible to help the peace process move forward. The Arabs have also made serious proposals to advance the peace process, something which has practically proved the sincerity of their peaceful intentions.

AL-THAWRAH raises an important question with regard to how the new U.S. Administration will deal with the challenges posed by Israel to obstruct the peace process. The paper says that such challenges have put the United States under its new administration to the test, taking into consideration that this administration has introduced itself as one that is not lacking in enthusiasm for the peace process and for offering all that is required to make it successfully lead to a just, comprehensive peace that is based on UN resolutions, especially UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as Resolution 425, which provide for returning the usurped rights to their rightful owners.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on a news agency report about a possible visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The paper says that if this report proves to be true, then this indicates that the new U.S. Administration under President Clinton is not only interested in the situation in the region, particularly the peace process, but also wants the peace process, which started over 15 months ago without achieving any progress, to move from its current stalemate, which has been caused by Israel's rejection of all peace proposals. The Americans are aware more than others of such Israeli stands.

AL-BA'TH continues: It is important that the new U.S. secretary of state comes to our region to acquaint himself with the Israeli stands that contradict the peace process. AL-BA'TH explains that Israel is not satisfied with refusing to implement UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338 providing for the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace in the region, but has gone far beyond that. As known, as soon as the eighth round of peace talks in Washington concluded without any progress being made, Israel embarked on a terrorist policy aimed at creating a new reality in the occupied territories. This was evident in the decision to uproot Arab citizens from their land and expel them from their homeland.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The problem, therefore, is not with the Arabs, but with Israel. As acknowledged by the entire world, the Arabs have offered all that is possible to achieve a just, comprehensive peace. Israel, however, has continued to reject all the prerequisites of peace. Such prerequisites are the cornerstone of a successful peace process.

Commentary Says U.S. Not To Veto Sanctions on Israel

JN2401163093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is logical not to expect Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to succeed in recruiting the new U.S. Administration, in its first days, to defend a wrong stand and challenge the international community by using the veto if this community decides to resort to

sanctions to force Israel to implement its resolutions concerning the Palestinian deportees.

Perhaps, the first party that is aware that such a position taken by Clinton's administration would be illogical is this administration itself, which knows that such a bias toward Israel in the face of not only the Arab position, but the whole international position, means that this administration will quickly lose the status of an honest broker in the Middle East crisis. This will have several consequences, foremost of which is the collapse of the peace process whose most important element for continuation requires that Washington maintain its credibility as an honest broker, in addition to the impression that such a position will leave with the peoples of the world, who are watching how far this administration is committed to the principles it declared.

Rabin is aware how serious a mistake the deportation decision was. As an opinion poll indicated, most of his ministers favor rescinding this decision. His foreign minister, Peres, has more than once voiced his disagreement with Rabin's practices and measures. The whole world is condemning the deportation decision and urging the Security Council to quickly adopt a resolution imposing sanctions on Israel if it fails to repatriate the deportees to their homeland. But Rabin, perhaps for weak personal reasons that concern his future as a prime minister, his fragile coalition government, and the internal balance of power, refuses to succumb to world pressure and back down from his wrong decision out of fear that this retreat will enable the opposition to take power from him. Retreat here means bowing, though temporarily, to the international storm, and not relinquishing the deportation policy which is a firm Israeli policy. Therefore, the Labor Party's leader prefers to maneuver, prevaricate, and waste time in order to absorb the angry international reaction to the deportation. Rabin is working to involve the U.S. Administration in entrenching his wrong decision in face of the international pressure through resorting to the veto at the Security Council.

Rabin is active in the diplomatic field and in other fields to convince influential countries in the Security Council to wait and turn a blind eye to the trick of playing for time which he is practicing, awaiting new developments that relieve him of the trap in which he put himself.

Due to Israel's favored position with the influential Western countries, Rabin was given a deadline that he wasted, as it was expected, in infertile maneuvers. This deadline continued for one month since the Security Council resolution was adopted. This deadline was wasted by Rabin in his attempt to turn around three missions of the UN secretary general's envoy, and to deviate these missions from their basic objective, which is implementation of the Security Council resolution.

After the failure of his attempts with the UN's envoy to change the deportation from a political issue to a humanitarian one, and his failure to improve Israel's image through fake humanitarian elements, Rabin is concentrating his efforts on delaying the Security Council's debates under the pretext of waiting for the decision to be issued by the Israeli Supreme Court. It is comical that Rabin himself did not wait for the decision of the Israeli court when he expelled the Palestinians, but he is asking the world now to wait for the court's decision so that he may return the deportees. By making such a request of the Security Council states, Rabin is trying to make a balance between the Israeli court's decision and the Security Council resolution and the international will. If the court endorsed the deportation, the Security Council and the international community should heed this decision, and if the court does not endorse the decision, then the justice of the Israeli court and not the international will would be the one that repatriated the Palestinians.

Who are the ones that Rabin is mocking? It was Rabin who did not care for the decision of his court when he quickly deported the Palestinians and then he asked the Security Council to respect the decision of the same court that he himself did not respect. He is now waiting to be saved from his internal and international dilemma by a decision from this court. Will the international community and the Security Council members accept that Israeli prevaricating and mocking tricks continue endlessly with them, as if they are deaf partners in a game that ridicules them and the international will which they represent? Will Washington accept opposing the international will by using the veto in order to save Rabin's face? Where are the rights of those who are staying on the ice and in the open, and where is the principled U.S. position which opposes all forms of mass deportation?

Has the time not yet come for translating the positions into deeds, and the international will into measures that deter the aggressor and put an end to its oppression, tyranny, and recklessness? It is a question that we leave for Washington and the Security Council member states, awaiting their future decision.

UN Urged To Prove Security Council Credibility

JN2601170793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The UN secretary general urged the Security Council to take all necessary measures to return the Palestinian expellees to their homes, after Israel refused to comply with Resolution 799 and openly defied international legitimacy. The secretary general warned that the absence of such measures against Israel will deepen the international community's belief that the Security Council is using two different standards in dealing with hot issues. He noted that the situation in the occupied Arab territories is further deteriorating as a result of Israel's practices and that the international organization has no choice but to form a permanent body to monitor what is taking place in these territories, in implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The secretary general pointed out that Israel's refusal to comply with Resolution 799 is only one link in a long

chain of actions that have conflicted with Security Council resolutions and defied its authority. The UN secretary general's report and recommendations to the Security Council, following extensive contacts with Israeli authorities, have all ended in failure.

Yesterday, Yitzhaq Rabin reaffirmed his determination to not take back the Palestinian deportees, saying that any possible Security Council sanctions will reflect negatively on the peace process. Furthermore, he did not hesitate to accuse the highest international authority of partiality toward terrorism. This is how Israel forges and reverses all facts, practices mad terrorism, accuses its victims of terrorism, foils a year's worth of peace efforts, undermines international initiatives to advance the peace process, places obstacles in the path of progress, and accuses the international community of disrupting prospects for peace.

This is what Israel is. It distorts everything, allows itself to use the most brutal measures in flagrantly violating international law, while all the while leveling accusations against everybody. The Security Council adopts, within hours, deterring measures against this or that country in the Arab region, but takes weeks and even months when it comes to Israel. However, the crisis this time has reached an unbearable degree, compelling the UN secretary general to make the Security Council face its responsibilities and warn it that it may lose its credibility in serious fashion.

People far and near know that the collapse of international credibility in the Middle East will inevitably lead to doubts about the Security Council's authority and resolutions throughout the world. All this will result in furthering the climate of mistrust in UN initiatives. International law cannot be imposed here by force while being trampled elsewhere. There is no choice but to apply it to everybody, without prejudice, so that UN law can be the only sound, prevailing authority.

Since its assumption of power, the Rabin government has been disregarding the United Nations and casting doubts about its authority and resolutions. After the Security Council issued Resolution 799 calling for the return of the Palestinian deportees, that government tried to use its allies to paralyze the Security Council and empty the resolution of its tenor by using its alleged Higher Court and allowing the Red Cross from time to time to carry some medicines to the deportees as if the problem had been a humanitarian rather than an Israeli policy of deportation, displacement, killing, terrorism, destruction of the Palestinian national spirit, and forcing Palestinians to carry out mass evacuations and bow to the dictates of Zionist settlers.

The Rabin government, despite all its peace allegations, is resolutely denying the Palestinian people their right to self-determination while refusing to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories in accordance with the will of peace and the Security Council resolutions.

In his cable to new U.S. President Bill Clinton, Rabin claimed that he was prepared to take risks to advance the peace process. No one knows what Rabin means by the word risks, on the understanding that since he took office, his actions have conflicted with peace and are even studied and organized to undermine the Washington talks. Rabin stepped up repressive actions, and no day elapses without scores of Arab citizens being shot by Israelis. He also pursues the policy of deportation and eviction instead of recognizing the Palestinian people's rights, increases the civilians' suffering in the occupied territories instead of reducing them, continues the policy of settlement instead of declaring a readiness to implement Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and exchange land for peace. He also placed obstacles during the Washington talks instead of responding to Syrian proposals, which the entire world praised for their objective and balanced nature.

Hence, what are these risks of which Rabin speaks? In fact, it is the Arabs who opened the doors to peace, responded to the U.S. initiative, and participated in the Madrid and Washington talks out of their concern for peace and to prove their honest intentions to the world while exposing Israel's false allegations and misleading propaganda. The result was that Israel dealt a new blow to the peace endeavors by expelling hundreds of innocent Palestinian citizens.

The UN secretary general placed facts before the Security Council, which should face up to its responsibilities and prove to the world that right is right, that oppression is rejected, that international law should apply to everyone, that Israel cannot continue to violate UN resolutions without being punished, and that there is no law other than the law of justice. Only then can the Security Council open all the doors of the Middle East to a real, just, and comprehensive peace to end 40 years of Israeli rebellion and rampage.

Report on Al-Asad's Health, Potential Power Struggle

PM2601115693 Paris LIBERATION in French 23-24 Jan 93 p14

[Report by Jose Garcon: "Damascus Preparing Hafiz al-Asad's Succession"]

[Text] There have been rumors about Hafiz al-Asad's state of health from time to time over the past 10 years. They could well now be more than just rumors. Following a heart attack four days ago, the Syrian president is in critical condition, according to our information. Western and Arab diplomatic sources said yesterday that they were "in possession of reliable indications to that effect" but they could not definitely confirm the Syrian head of state's new illness. He suffered an infarction in 1984.

A long meeting of the Ba'th Party leadership (the government party in Syria—LIBERATION editor's note) was apparently held on Thursday to discuss all the eventualities and above all to try to avoid a new "war of succession" within the Alawite community—the minority community which is in government in Damascus. As was the case in the first few months of 1984, this

power struggle would be between Rifa't al-Asad, the president's brother, and 'Ali Duba, head of military intelligence who was appointed a few days ago as deputy chief of staff and who is supported by several of the regime's Alawite "senior officers."

At the time, the confrontation between these army officers and Rif'at al-Asad, the "boss" of the "Defense Brigades"—a veritable parallel army with 20,000 men—almost turned into an open battle in Damascus before going against Rif'at al-Asad who was forced to go into exile in Switzerland and then in France. Having always shown unswerving loyalty to Hafiz al-Asad, this group of top military officials did not intend to allow Rif'at to succeed his brother.

Today, the mystery in which ruling circles in Damascus are usually shrouded makes it impossible to know the state of the balance of power between Rif'at, who returned to Syria a few months ago to attend a funeral after an enforced exile of eight years, and 'Ali Duba whose recent appointment strikes some as a "promotion" and others as an attempt to "kick him upstairs." It is not any easier to find out whether Hafiz al-Asad has made any plans for his possible succession, but several years ago he started to prepare his son Basil for state responsibilities.

If the head of state's illness is confirmed, he will have to take account of its consequences in the domestic sphere. But the question of his succession will raise—and this is not the least of the Western diplomats' worries—that of the future of the Near East peace process. This is a process to which Hafiz al-Asad has given his blessing and which, according to most diplomats, has more chance of leading initially to an Israeli-Syrian agreement than to real progress between Palestinians and Israelis.

Afghanistan

Clashes Continue in Kabul; Diplomats Leave City

LD2701113493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] In Kabul, clashes between government forces and Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami continue.

In retaliation for yesterday's attack by Hekmatyar's forces, government forces this morning launched a counteroffensive in the Chehelsotun area of west Kabul and have so far managed to capture some hills in Khay-abad from Hezb-e Eslami control, according to the IRIB reporter in Kabul, citing Defense Ministry sources.

In Kabul a heavy exchange of fire, which intensified yesterday afternoon, continues.

In yesterday's exchanges, the Jangalak industrial complex, in southwest Kabul, was set on fire by rockets launched by Hekmatyar's forces. Also in this area an ammunition dump, apparently belonging to Hekmatyar's forces, was set on fire.

The exchange of fire has also damaged residential areas in Kabul and left a number of people dead or wounded, our reporter added.

The situation in the Afghan capital has become so critical that in one of the central streets bodies of victims are left for hours without any effort to collect them.

Reports from Kabul also indicate that the charges d'affaires of Italy, India, and a number of other countries have left the city. This decision was made after fighting intensified in Kabul and a number of embassies were the target of rocket attacks.

The Iranian, Chinese, and Italian Embassies were among the ones attacked by rockets.

Six Killed as Hekmatyar Forces Hit Kabul With Rockets

LD2601154293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] The Golboddin forces have not yet given up firing rockets at non-military targets and today too they continued their rocket attacks on Kabul city. A security source reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency [BIA] that the Golboddin [Hekmatyar] forces fired 108 rockets at the second, third, fourth, fifth, tenth, and eleventh wards of the city today, as a result of which six citizens were martyred and dozens of others were injured.

Today's rocket attack, aimed at a number of houses and public welfare institutions, also caused heavy material losses. Some sections of the Jangalak and Afghan carpentry factories [located in the outskirts of Kabul] were set on fire and destroyed. The military forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan today too bombed and fired artillery shells at the firing positions, headquarters, and concentration points of the Golboddin forces.

A responsible source of the Ministry of Defense said to the BIA military section that the military forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan continued today too their advances at the southern and southeastern approaches of the city. They carried out artillery attacks and bombed the enemy's positions, fortifications, and heavy weapon centers as a result of which a number of trenches and military posts of the enemy were set on fire and destroyed. The source added that three enemy posts to the southwest and two posts in the southeastern regions were seized by the mojahedin from where a number of the enemy's heavy and light weapons were also seized. A number of the Golboddin forces were captured by the forces of the Islamic State. As a result of today's operation a heavy weapons depot of the enemy was set on fire and destroyed.

The enemy fired rockets today on the residential and government installations as a result of which a number of our religious citizens were martyred and a large number were injured.

Rabbani Criticizes Nawaz Sharif's 'Dual Policy'

BK2601095793 Islamabad THE NATION in English 26 Jan 93 p 1

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Peshawar—Syed Noorullah Emaad, deputy leader of Jamiat-e-Eslami Afghanistan, has handed over a special but very critical message from Afghan president Prof. Bornanoddin Rabbani to Pakistan's president Ghulam Ishaq Khan through foreign ministry in Islamabad last week, The Nation learnt here through reliable Afghan government sources.

Syed Noorullah Emaad, currently on visit of the country, brought the three-page message for the President written in Dari which is the second official language of Afghanistan. The language of the message is reported to be very critical of "Pakistan's dual Afghan policy". The letter suggests Pakistan to "stop dual policy towards Afghanistan and adopt a unified stance.

Sources further told The Nation that in his message the Afghan president expressed strong resentment over the continuous supply of food stuff to his rival Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar and the issuance of special permits to other elements opposing his government and thus creating problems for common citizens of that country. Rabbani states "These tactics on the part of Pakistani officials are being considered to be a negation of the Foreign Office's stand which has already recognised his administration", sources added.

Rabbani in his letter, is also said to be critical of Pakistan's attitude towards Watan Party leaders, members and supporters, majority of which has taken refuge in Peshawar, Islamabad and other cities.

He mentioned various names of those Pakistanis who, according to him have been financing the Watan Party leaders. Rabbani alleged that NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] Chief Minister Mir Afzal Khan, Khan Abdol Wali Khan, Mohammad Afzal Khan, Afrasyab Khattak and others have not only provided shelter to them but they are also financing those elements.

He also reportedly pointed out that his rival Golboddin Hekmatyar is not only being supported by Jamaat-e-Eslami but those channels are provided arms and finances to him. He added that Hekmatyar has been favoured to launch propaganda against his government which is recognized by Pakistan.

Afghan President is also critical of Pakistan's "increasing understanding with powerful miltiia general Abdol Rashid Dostam". He expressed concern over Pakistani leaders' invitation to Dostum in September and agian in November last year.

He also showed resentment over direct flights between Mazar-e- Sharif and Islamabad without taking his government in confidence. These tactics on the part of Pakistan, he noted can be declared contrary to Pakistan's Afghan policy".

The sources further said that president Rabbani also expressed concern over opening of office of the former Watan Party and its factions in Islamabad. "On one hand Pakistan recognised his administration and the communists are being allowed to continue their political activities in Pakistan on the other.

We have fought a long Jihad against those communists and will not allow them to resume their activities in any part of the world", he asserted.

In his letter, Prof. Rabbani has also criticised Pakistani officials for allowing the family members of Dr Najib to reside in Peshawar along with former acting president Haji Mohammad Chamkani, former minister Sulaiman Laeq, Niaz Mohammad Mohmand and others including close relatives of former Afghan president Babrak Karmal.

President Rabbani also criticised the Government of Pakistan for mediation between Saudi Arabia and Gen Rashid Dostam. He regretted that "openly both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have been supporting his government while internally they are encouraging those elements and forces which are hatching conspiracies against Islamic government of Afghanistan. Concluding his letter, Prof. Rabbani reportedly asked President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to "check those elements who are working against Pakistan's Afghan policy".

Hekmatyar Commanders Reported Not Obeying Communist Officers

LD2501175993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A number of Golboddin's [Hekmatyar's] commanders are not obeying the instructions given to them by infidel and communists officers and have left the battlefields.

Reports say that in regions where Golboddin's groups have thus far existed, the commanders facing defeat are aware of the uselessness of their war. They have come to understand that their war is against the precepts of the sacred religion of Islam, and that they are only killing our innocent compatriots. Therefore, they are not obeying the orders given them by the murderous communists and have left the battlefields.

We ask all those who are fighting to kill their Muslim brothers to distance themselves from the ranks of criminals such as the godless Tanay [ex-defense minister] and Jabar, and to join their brothers and Islamic state. The are of the homeland are open to all.

Actions by Golboddin's 'Agitating Forces' Deplored

LD2701120493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0230 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The agitating forces of Golboddin carried out a series of actions against the mojahedin and forces of the Islamic State on 25 January in Paktia Province. According to another report, the Golboddin forces a while ago planned an ambush against the mojahedin of the Islamic State in Zormat District, Paktia Province. Fortunately their plan was discovered in time and foiled.

The report adds that as a result of the fighting that flared up between the forces of Golboddin and the Islamic State, 11 men from Golboddin's forces were killed, another six were injured, and two were captured. The Islamic State's forces did not suffer any losses, praise be to God.

Golboddin's forces have in the past embarked on inhumane actions in this province. For example, a while ago they planned an ambush against the convoy of Paktia Province Governor Mowlawi Mansur, and carried out disrespectful actions against this honorable person by killing four of his men. The people of Zormat District have condemned these actions by the agitating forces and consider Golboddin to be the cause of murder and killing.

Government Transfers Tajik Refugees To Internal Regions

OW2301170493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Afghan authorities have transferred 15,000 Tajik refugees, who were waiting for the opportunity to cross the river Pyandzh, from the border to the internal regions. The biggest camps, populated by about 50,000 Tajik refugees, are located near the city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

The Tajik governmental quarters informed INTERFAX that a Tajik delegation will visit the refugee camps on Monday to establish why the Afghan authorities had taken such a decision.

The Russian frontier guards believe that the refugees are starving. However, their return home is being delayed because the navigation situation on the river Pyandzh needs to be clarified.

Bangladesh

Spokesman Rejects Indian Charge of Interference

BK2601161993 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Bangladesh has regretted the Indian Government's statement over the resolution adopted by the Bangladeshi parliament on the Babri Mosque issue and has clearly said that the resolution can in no way be construed as interference in India's internal affairs. Terming the Indian statement regrettable and disappointing, a foreign office spokesman said that the Indian statement about the Bangladeshi parliament resolution is justified neither by the intent nor by the substance. He said that the Indian statement spoke of the consequence of the incident, but totally avoided the cause of it. The spokesman said that the Bangladeshi parliament's resolution was a legitimate expression of concern by the people's representatives through democratic means. He added that the resolution was primarily aimed at assisting in the process of restoring peace and communal harmony in India so as to ease the possible adverse effect in the region. The spokesman said that the exuberance and jubilation by the fundamentalists and fanatics have crossed the frontiers and harmed all. He said that the resolution called for the implementation of the Indian prime minister's declaration to rebuild the mosque at its original site as a step toward peace and harmony. He said that the resolution has not condemned the [words indistinct] or its actions and policies. He referred [words indistinct] and said that singling out the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party as indulging in public denunciation of India's policies and actions [words indistinct] as baseless.

Regarding the Indian charges of extensive damage to property and untold misery and extreme insecurity, the spokesman said that the situation in Bangladesh is absolutely normal and anyone will confirm this fact. While condemning those responsible for the demolition of the Babri Mosque, he said Bangladesh has repeatedly called for tolerance and restraint in keeping with the traditions of Islam. In this regard, he said that Bangladesh has taken unprecedented steps to maintain law and order in the heated atmosphere. He said Bangladesh considers the maintenance of constructive, cooperative, and friendly relations with India as a vital imperative of its foreign policy and will continue to strive toward this end.

Strike in Dhaka To Protest Attack on Opposition Rally

BK2601155893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0655 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] DHAKA, Jan 26 (AFP)—A half-day general strike called in protest at a gun and bomb attack on an opposition rally took hold in the Bangladesh capital Tuesday, police and witnesses said.

Police and paramilitary troops patrolled the streets which were deserted as residents responded to the nationwide dawn-to-noon stoppage called by the opposition Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed. Shops and schools were shut while banks and offices operated with reduced staff. Stike organisers said the stoppage affected other Bangladesh towns.

A similar stoppage passed off without major incident Monday in the southern port city of Chittagong where gunfire and crude bomb blasts reportedly left some 50 people injured Sunday at an Awami League rally. Unidentified gunmen opened fire after Wajed ended her speech, press reports said. Wajed, also the parliamentary oppposition leader, took cover behind the podium and was unhurt.

She was reported as saying the attack was an attempt on her life by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party but later said she had been misquoted, saying that the violence was "the result of a conspiracy" which had nothing to do with the ruling party.

Government Minister Abdullah Al Noman said in a statement Monday Wajed's claim that an attempt had been made on her life was "a calculated attempt to conceal serious internal bickering in her own party."

The government said rival factions of the league's student wing, the Bangladesh Chatra League, fought with bombs and guns at the rally, injuring 16 people including policemen.

India

Violent Incidents Continue in Country

Curfew After Rajasthan Violence

BK2601145493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] In Rajasthan, an indefinite curfew was imposed in Tonk city today following violent incidents. According to official sources, a crowd indulged in violence and

damaged some shops and business establishments. The situation is, however, reported to be under control. Additional police force has been rushed to the city.

Bomb Explosion in Gorakhpur

BK2601155793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, one person was killed and nine others, including two women, were injured in a bomb explosion in a cinema hall in Gorakhpur today. According to police, the condition of three is stated to be serious. Police investigation is on.

'Top Militants' Killed in Punjab

BK2701091693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] In Punjab, two top militants—Nishant Singh and Balwant Singh—were killed in an encounter with security forces this morning at village Bhayani in Tarn Taran area of Amritsar District. According to an official spokesman, Nishant Singh was responsible for over 100 killings.

Elsewhere in the state, three militants were killed in the Jullundur town early this morning. Security forces also arrested four militants from various places in Punjab.

Indefinite Curfew in Delhi Area

BK2701115093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] An indefinite curfew has been imposed in several areas of the walled city of Delhi, following incidents of group clashes. Police sources said that curfew was imposed this afternoon in Jama Masjid, Daryaganj, Haus Khazi, Kamala Market, and Chandini Mahal areas. Police resorted to lathi [baton] charge and lobbed teargas shells to control the unruly mobs. The sources said all necessary steps are being taken to restore normalcy.

Republic Day Ceremonies, Leaders' Remarks

BK2601131993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Unfurling of the national flag, parades, pledges to maintain communal harmony, cultural pageants, and launching of welfare schemes are the highlights of the 44th Republic Day celebrations today. At the main function in the capital, the country's military might was witnessed by thousands of people. This year's parade comprised 26 marching contingents belonging to the three services, paramilitary forces, the Delhi Police, the NCC [National Cadet Corps], and the National Service Team followed by 16 tableaux and hundreds of performing school children. The British prime minister, Mr. John Major, was the chief guest at the celebrations. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, gave away the highest civilian gallantry award, Ashoke Chakra, to Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh posthumously.

The day was celebrated in all the states and union territories where governors, lieutenant governors, and chief ministers hoisted the national flag at various functions. Unfurling the national flag in Jammu, the state governor, Mr. Girish Chandra Saxena, cautioned the people against continued efforts of Pakistan to perpetuate a state of violence in some parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the state-level function at Patiala, the Punjab governor, Mr. Surendra Nath, commended the people in the state for maintaining the traditional love bonds despite provocation. Indians living in Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh also celebrated Republic Day.

In West Bengal, left front leaders, ministers, intellectuals, and school children formed a human chain across the state today to build public opinion in favor of communal harmony. The longest ever chain stretched from Darjeeling in the north to the Sundarbans in the south. The chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, completed the chain by joining hands in the Ballygunge area of Calcutta. A left front spokesman said that nearly two crore people participated.

New Rocket Successfully Test-Fired

BK2601163093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] The Indian Space Research Organization has achieved a significant breakthrough by successfully test-firing an Air Breathing Rocket—ABR-200. According to Dr. Manoranjan Rao of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center, the rocket will be able to carry much higher payload when the technology becomes operational.

Country's Nuclear Option Analyzed

BK1601145493 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 28 Dec 93 p 11

[By T.T. Poulose]

[Text] The hardline Indian nuclear thinking is piqued after Bill Clinton's spectacular electoral victory. This school of thought seems to believe that a new Democratic administration in the United States is going to be very stiff with India in pursuing its non-proliferation goals in South Asia. According to them, this was exactly what happened under President Carter in 1978 with the enactment of the national Nuclear Non-Proliferation Legislation providing for full scope safeguards and intrusive inspections of nuclear facilities ex post facto.

India also had a tough time with the US Government about the supply of enriched uranium for the Tarapur nuclear power plant until France stepped in as a third party to continue with the fuel supply. The Republican administration under President Bush has been comparatively more flexible with India while acting tough with

Pakistan on her nuclear programme and cutting off economic aid under the Pressler Amendment. Under mounting pressure from the US, is India having any rethinking of its nuclear policy while preparing to face the Clinton Administration officials after Clinton's take-over in January?

The Russian stand on the nuclear non-proliferation issue is not very comforting either. India's equation with Russia has changed dramatically after the break-up of the Soviet Union. All available evidence leads only to one conclusion: the Russians are as determined as the Americans in preventing India going nuclear. A key foreign policy document prepared by one of the think-tanks in Russia and quoted by IZVESTIYA recently observed that Russia no longer wanted to be viewed as deliberately pro-Indian. There was also a blistering attack on India's stand on the NPT [Nonproliferation treaty] which had been characterised as a "blind alley". In fact, all nuclear weapon States are also opposed to India's stand on the NPT. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao himself admitted recently that India remained isolated in the world on the question of NPT.

Today when India is besieged by her critics, it is seldom appreciated that at such a critical period when India was under the shadow of the Chinese nuclear threat, instead of deciding to become a nuclear weapon power, she opted for a non-nuclear weapon status risking her own security in defence of the very same principle for which she is now being pilloried. For a country which had the scientific potential and technological capability, going nuclear would have been the natural response. In fact, India's domestic critics still regard this fateful indecision is a lost historical opportunity. Moreover, there was no NPT to be bothered about in those days.

However, as India's nuclear policy has come under rigorous scrutiny, it has also to be admitted that India's nuclear profile from the days of the Nehruvian concept of renunciation of nuclear weapons as an instrument of national policy has undergone major changes. India's nuclear policy took a controversial turn first when the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) conducted a nuclear test in 1974.

No one can question India's sovereign right to become a nuclear weapon State if it is in India's national interest. Similarly no one can force India to sign the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty]. But the hub of the criticism of India's nuclear policy is its ambivalence. In fact, India's 'nuclear option' has been suspected for long as a cover-up for a clandestine nuclear weapon programme. As India goes on defending its technological breakthroughs as 'technology demonstration', India's nuclear critics become more and more sceptical about its peaceful nuclear intentions. From the comments of India's nuclear experts it is apparent to these sceptics that India has already launched a weaponisation programme. That leads us to the strategic issues.

Those who are critical of India for her nuclear follies should come forward with some positive ideas to meet India's strategic requirements against the Chinese and the Pakistani nuclear capabilities as both are perceived by India as its strategic enemies. Prof Stephen Cohn suggested in a recent article in Washington Post that India should give up its nuclear option for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. There is enough indication that China is not going to allow this to happen even if it is going to be a workable proposition. In any case, it is not going to solve India's security dilemma. How can India even without having a small operational nuclear force (assuming that it is all in the making) hope to face a Chinese nuclear threat? Permanent membership in the UN Security Council is certainly not the answer even if India can be bribed with such an attractive offer. The concept of "co-operative security" he is advocating along with a permanent seat in the Security Council is too vague and inadequate to be taken seriously by the Indian government.

For India, there are other important things to worry about. First, the lead time which China has over India in nuclear capability is unbridgeable for a long time. Secondly, if India takes a political decision to go nuclear, India's first-generation nuclear weapons cannot in the foreseeable future provide minimum deterrence against China's strategic triad (ICBMs, SLBMs and strategic bombers) which can inflict unacceptable damage to India while surviving with its retaliatory capability almost intact. China's nuclear experts even refused to have strategic dialogue with Indian counterparts because in their view India is not a nuclear weapon State. That is where India stands vis-a-vis China. Given the present economic plight it is doubtful whether India would like to join China in a costly ballistic missile and thermonuclear arms race. Assuming that the United States might succeed in dissuading India and Pakistan from going nuclear, it has neither any control over the Chinese nuclear presence in Tibet nor over its strategic decisions. Moreover, China can also influence Pakistan's nuclear-decision thereby making India more vulnerable notwithstanding the ongoing Sino-Indian dialogue.

The way the nuclear debate has been going on in our country is deplorable, to say the least. First, for some strange reasons, Pakistan's nuclear threat has been the pre-occupation of our defence experts while they know that China is our real strategic problem. Secondly, futile semantic exercises like 'nuclear capable' States instead of threshold nuclear powers or 'nuclear safe' rather than 'nuclear free' regions, do not improve India's nuclear stand except weakening it. Frankly, some of our defence experts have done incalculable harm to India's national interest by trying to oversell a modest nuclear programme and making it controversial. Thirdly, their attempt to improvise the NPT has been flawed as it violates the basic norms of treaty making. Fourthly, all amendments to the NPT have to be dealt with under Article VIII (2) of the Treaty and not at the level of the Extension Conference even if India can hope to influence the future of NPT from outside as an observer.

If India does not join the NPT before 1995, she will have no effective role to have her views accommodated at the Extension Conference. If India decides to become a party to the NPT, she has to give up her nuclear weapon ambitions and all the principles she stood for, so far. Bargaining for more reliable nuclear security guarantees independently of the UN Security Council Resolution of 1968, especially against China, would be better than unilateral surrender of India's nuclear option in case India finally decided to give up her nuclear option.

It is no longer possible for India to avoid taking some hard decisions regarding its nuclear ambivalence. Like all self- respecting nations India can also decide to come out openly and declare that she is a nuclear weapon State and face the economic, political and strategic consequences. China did exactly that. Like China, India is also a poor nation, but one does not 'live by bread alone' as the Biblical saying goes. Otherwise, India can go on living with the nuclear option and face the fury of all those nations which are waiting to 'punish' India for its nuclear infidelity.

On the one hand India has reasons for optimism in the nuclear arms control field. But on the other hand, the nuclear weapon States, especially China, have to come forward with some concrete proposals to reassure India about her security concerns. After the break-up of the Soviet Union, the Chinese nuclear weapon developments at such a feverish pitch are quite intriguing. She conducted an IMT nuclear test in May this year. At least as a demonstration of good faith, China must pull out her nuclear missiles from Tibet. This has to be followed by a freeze in her missile and warhead programmes along with a halt in the production of fissionable materials similar to Russian and American decisions. She should also announce a moratorium on nuclear tests. India can discuss all these conditions at the proposed five-nation conference on South Asia.

If India can have bilateral talks on similar questions with the same countries why should she shy away from a 5-nation conference? As a matter of fact, India should be prepared to discuss her security problems openly with any State bilaterally or at multilateral levels. India can very well tell the Chinese at the 5- nation conference that India can also go nuclear in order to break the Chinese nuclear monopoly in Asia and for its own defence if China does not agree to reduce its nuclear weapons to the minimum level.

Himachal Pradesh Governor Resigns

BK2701085693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The Himachal Pradesh governor, Mr. Virendra Verma, has tendered his resignation. In a letter, he has requested the president to relieve him immediately.

Further Reportage on John Major's Visit

More Direct Investments Offered

BK2601161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Britain today offered to share with India its expertise on privatization of the public sector undertakings. The British prime minister, Mr. John Major, also indicated that more direct investments will be made by his country in India in the wake of liberalization of the economy. On the second day of his official engagements in New Delhi, Mr. Major held a long meeting with the captains of Indian industry and trade. A spokesman of the British High Commission told our correspondent that the meeting was very encouraging and productive in furthering bilateral economic cooperation. Mr. Major allayed the apprehensions of Indian industrialists over unified European market. The Indian side apprised the visiting dignitary of the growth prospects of Indian economy. Mr. Major said the very fact that a large business delegation accompanied him indicates the keen interest of his country to invest in India and to extend continued support. The British prime minister identified small and medium industries and service sector as the two key areas for stepping up bilateral cooperation.

Mr. John Major had a luncheon meeting with the representatives of nongovernment organizations. Various aspects of continued British aid to voluntary agencies for social service are understood to have been discussed at the meeting.

Major Comments on Additions to UN Council

LD2601141593 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1319 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By Paul Bromley, PRESS ASSOCIATION, in India]

[Text] John Major was today noticeably cool about an American plan to add Germany and Japan to the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

The prime minister said it was important that nothing was done to make the Security Council less effective.

The Clinton administration proposes adding the strong economic countries of Germany and Japan to the existing five permanent members of the Security Council—Britain, the U.S., Russia, France, and China.

"I am certainly happy to look at matters that make it more effective and I would not wish to do anything that made it less effective," said Mr. Major. He added: "I think you would have to change the United Nations' mandate and a raft of other things but I dare say these are matters that will be discussed." He did not think Germany's inclusion would overbalance the European representation on the world body or mean Britain losing its place.

Many other countries, including India and Brazil, also felt they should be permanent members of the Security Council, said Mr. Major.

Major Leaves for Bombay

BK2701054893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The British prime minister, Mr. John Major, has said that his talks with Indian leaders will open a new era in India- British relations. Talking to newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] today, he described his visit as enormously successful and friendly. Expressing confidence in India's future, Mr. Major hoped that more investments will flow into India as a result of his visit.

Answering a question on the American proposal to include Germany and Japan in the UN Security Council, Mr. Major said the issue has to be discussed in detail before coming to a conclusion.

The British prime minister was seen off at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and his cabinet colleague were among the dignitaries who were present at the cerecmony.

Mr. Major left for Indore on his way to Bombay. He is visiting two slum colonies in Indore today where a development project with British aid is now under way. AIR [All India Radio] Indore correspondent reports that the 35-crore rupee slum improvement scheme aims at improving the living standard of more than 400,000 dwellers in 183 slums in the city. Similar projects are also being implemented in four of the cities—Calcutta, Hyderabad, Vishakhapatnam and Vijaywada—with the financial assistance of the Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom. At the end of his brief visit to Indore, Mr. Major will leave for Bombay in the afternoon where he is scheduled to meet the British business and financial community.

As already reported, Mr. Major has identified small and medium industries in service sectors as two key areas for stepping up bilateral cooperation with India. On the second day of his official engagements in New Delhi yesterday, the British prime minister held a meeting with the captains of Indian industry and trade. He told them that British industry is interested in investing in power generation and transmission, telecommunications, food processing, banking and financial services. Mr. Major allayed the apprehensions of Indian industrialists about the Unified European Market. A spokesman of the British High Commission described the meeting as very encouraging and productive in furthering bilateral economic cooperation.

Commentary Calls Yeltsin's Visit 'Watershed'

BK2701044993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Commentary by Professor Bhawani Singh Gupta of the Center for Policy Research]

[Text] The Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin's, visit to India today is no ordinary affair of state. Coming close on the heels of his successful visit to China, it marks a watershed in the foreign policy of the Russian Federation. The clear tilt to the United States in the last two years is now said to be over. The focus of Russian foreign policy will now shift to build a close cooperative relationship with the countries of the Pacific rim, especially China and India. Many now freely talk nostalgically of the special relationship that existed for many years between India and the former Soviet Union. In the post-cold war period, with the USSR no more, the kind of special relationship with Russia is neither possible, nor desirable for either side.

President Yeltsin's first state visit to Delhi, brief though it is, may prove to be a watershed in relations between Russia and India. Because of the importance Russia gives to the visit, Mr. Yeltsin's entourage will include as many as 70 media persons. In a television program yesterday, Moscow TV made it clear that Russia's foreign policy would no longer be pro-West. It would be a balanced relationship between the West and the South—India and China being the main pillars of the new foreign policy.

There are several problems that Russia and India must resolve in order to give a boost to their relationship. The Russian economy has just begun to turn around. It will take Yeltsin some more time to put it on the right course when production increases at a desirable pace and Russia is able to meet all its international supplies commitments. Russia's difficulties are known and understood in India and there is a readiness to wait for Russia to come up from its welter of economic and political problems. However, the Russian market, a competitive dollar prices in which Russia is and will be able to sell us the important items we buy, including defense and space research equipment, will make Russia a major source of vital supplies to India, including off course petroleum and petroleum products. [sentence as heard]

The rupee-ruble ratio to repay the debts India owes to Russia is a vexed question. One must remember that it is nothing to with current transactions. The debt concerns past purchases. Both sides are trying hard to resolve the issue and the differences have greatly narrowed down. The Russian team visiting India for two days will make a determined effort to resolve the issue finally. So will the Indian Government. The visit will be marked for the conclusion for a number of important agreements.

Yeltsin's Remarks on Eve of Visit Reported

BK2601032093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, has reaffirmed that his country will adhere to the agreements with India on the supply of cryogenic rocket engines and technology. Talking to Indian and Russian journalists in Moscow yesterday, prior to his visit to India, he belied apprehensions in some quarters about the deal.

Mr. Yeltsin said that India-Russian ties will be built on a qualitatively new basis incorporating all the possible achievements of the past relationship. He said the interest of the two countries are identical as they espouse democratic principles and territorial integrity.

Referring to the rupee-ruble rate, Mr. Yeltsin said that the problem will be sorted out during his visit to New Delhi. He said both sides are interested in cooperation as India is the country with enormous potential and Russia has a big market.

The Russian leader said his visit to India was a part of Moscow's policy of reorienting itself toward the East.

Russia To Supply Cryogenic Booster Engines

BK2501094693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] The Indo-Russian deal on the supply of cryogenic booster engines for the Indian space launch vehicles is already under execution. In an interview to Moscow television's Panorama program, the Indian ambassador, Mr. Ranendra Sen, said the Russian leadership has publicly assured New Delhi that the contract will be fulfilled.

'Pakistan-Aided' Plan To 'Balkanise' Country Unearthed

BK2501034993 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 18 Jan 93 p 9

[Text] A Pakistan-aided grandiose new project of Kashmiri and Sikh terrorists to Balkanise India by involving communal sections of the minority community has been unearthed.

Known as K-2 project (Kashmir-Khalistan phase I), it seeks to unite Kashmiri and Sikh terrorists in India by providing them funds and new routes for supply of arms and ammunition, using the international border further south, across Rajasthan and Gujarat.

According to intelligence reports which form part of a complete set of information sent over to US administration for intervention with Pakistan, individuals have been identified in the Muslim minority urban concentrations like Ahmedabad, Aligarh etc to serve as contact points for locating arms caches and to receive ISI (Inter Services Intelligence of Pakistan) couriers.

Kashmiri militants taking refuge in Pakistan have been asked to remain in contact with such identified support agents, after infiltrating back into India.

Reports say that active office bearers of the Jamaat-e-Islami in Pakistan visited India and met these agents. They also targeted organisations like the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI). Batches of SIMI students were sent for training in fundamentalist ideology in Pakistan (Jamaat-e-Islami headquarters, Mansoora, Lahore), which included familiarisation in the use of arms, explosives in specially run camps in Peshawar.

Muslim minorities in India were also being motivated to settle in rural areas near the Indo-Pakistan border to provide sanctuaries to trained infiltrating militants and find new locations for arms caches.

The ISI and the Jamaat-e-Islami of Pakistan have started systematically recruiting even Pakistani nationals to join the "Islamic Jehad" to help Kashmiris. Selected youth are being inducted into pro-Pak militant outfits like the Jammu and Kashmir Hizbul Mujahideen (HuM). These Pak nationals, says the report, are being asked to infiltrate into Rajouri, Srinagar and Jammu areas, cause bomb blasts, blow up passenger buses and trains.

Khalid Bukhari, a committed Islami Jamiat-e-Tulba activist from Muzaffarabad, POK [Pakistan-occupied Kashmir], who was apprehended in Badgam in September last year, revealed that he had been trained by ISI experts in Lahore and given the responsibility of working as bodyguard of Syed Salahuddin, Hizbul Mujahideen chief of J and K [Jammu and Kashmir].

The report further says that certain Afghan Mujahideen groups, from the south-eastern provinces of Afghanistan are also involved in training of Kashmiri militants in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Hizbe Islami (Hikmatyar) and Jammat-e Islami of Pakistan, along with fundamentalist Arab mercenaries from Algeria, Sudan and Egypt—who have stayed on in Pakistan after the Afghan war, and who are being assisted by the ISI, are involved in this training

The intelligence report reveals that the training of a batch of 90 Kashmiri militants has begun in Karachi in November last year with plans to instigate them to cause subversion in India and target Indian missions abroad. Lahore based Abdul Hamid Diwani (known for his ISI links and involvement in hijacking of an Indian Airlines aircraft in 1976) has been associated in this programme.

The ISI continues to summon Kashmiri militants frequently across the border for consultations and guidance. Prominent among those who visited Pakistan clandestinely during the later part of 1992 included Ghulam Mohd, Mir Shamshul Haq of HuM, Bilal Ahmed Siddiqui and Hamid Gul of Mujahideen-e-Islam, Nayeem-ulHaq (Al Umar), Ali Mohd Dar (Mutahid Jehad Council). They were recently inducted back into the Valley. Ashan Dar, former HuM chief, crossed over to POK for further guidance from his Pak mentors.

The following Pak-based Kashmiri leaders of the Tehrik-e-Kashmir continued to receive support from Pakistani authorities and were sent to UK, Canada and US recently for collecting funds and spreading pro-Pak propaganda on the Kashmir issue: Ghulam Mohd.Safi (Jamaat-e-Islami J and K leader) and Amir of Hizbul Mujahideen visited UK in April/May last year; Ashraf Saraf (Jamaat-e-Islami J and K leader), visited UK in September 1992; Dr Ghulam Qadir Wanit (Jamaat-e-Islami) visited Canada and US in October/November last year; Ayaz Ahmed Khan of KLF [Kashmir Liberation Front] visited US, also in November last year.

Similarly, Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai, Kashmiri American Council leader and Dr Ayub Thukar of the World Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Movement (WJKFM) continue to get financial support from Pakistan for anti-India activities.

The intelligence report pointed out that the ISI is funnelling funds to Kashmiri militant groups mainly through 'hawala' [illegal transfer of funds] transactions. One such channel was recently smashed in Delhi with the apprehension of Shashi Kumar Aggarwal and Mohd. Anis.

Wider Representation in Security Council Urged

BK2301095493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] India has called for giving wider representation in the UN Security Council to make it truly representative of the present day world. In his keynote address at the 17th Pacific Armies Management Seminar in New Delhi yesterday, the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, said as the UN collective security system functions only upon the agreement among the members of the Security Council it has to be made more responsive to the expectations of the international community. Top army officers of about 30 countries of the Asian and the Pacific region are attending the week-long seminar cohosted by India and the United States. Pakistan has not sent any representatives to the meeting.

Saddam Husayn Blamed for Current Gulf Tension

BK2201160993 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Jan 93 p 13

[Editorial: "Saddam's Folly"]

[Text] The primary responsibility for the US-led allies' air raids on military targets inside Iraq, which have revived fears worldwide of another Gulf conflict, lies with President Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi leader had, in fact, left little to chance in his unremitting efforts over the recent months to aggravate tensions in the region and provoke the opposing allies into precipitate action. He has continued, ever since the humiliating rout of Iraq in the hi- tech war two years ago, to cock a snook at the UN Security Council and refused to implement its resolutions as well as the provisions of the ceasefire agreement without resistance at every point and along the line.

He shifted into a more directly confrontational mode by violating the no-fly zone declared by the UN in the south of the country. And, he brought matters to a head by launching a series of incursions into what is an integral part of liberated Kuwait in the guise of missions to recover Iraqi military equipment. These raids have been repeated despite warnings from the UN as well as the Western capitals. The timing of the provocations clearly showed that Mr. Husayn was trying to test the impact of the change of guard underway in Washington. Baghdad had celebrated the electoral debacle of Mr George Bush and was probing how far Mr Bill Clinton's establishment-in-waiting would stand by the outgoing President identified with an uncompromising anti-Saddam stance.

The cynical tactic would seem to have boomeranged, and the by now familiar Saddamite rhetoric has been accompanied by Iraq's belated acceptance of the demands for a halt to the incursions and for freedom of flight into the country for UN planes and personnel.

The dangerous brinkmanship has, of course, shown how little Mr Husayn had learnt from the experience of the war that laid Iraq waste and left a million of its people dead. The more pertinent question at the moment, however, is whether and to what extent the US and its Western allies have learnt theirs. The US presidential election has left little doubt about the American people's opinion of their country's military adventure abroad, and there have been ample signs that it is shared widely in the West. The Gulf war is unrepeatable, as is the grand coalition that included Arab partners, after Bosnia and related developments. And, the idea of another conflict of that scale and savagery is unacceptable to the world opinion at large.

A far more important issue of the region to the West as well as the world should be the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israel conflict, which the last war was supposed to have promoted but which still remains a distant prospect.

Iran

Khamene'i Speech Outlines Policy Issues

LD2601190993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Excerpts] On the eve of the festivities marking the 15th anniversary of the dawn of the Islamic revolution and on the anniversary of the auspicious birth of the lord of the world's freemen, His Holiness Imam Husayn—peace be upon him—His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, delivered a very important speech at a meeting with a large number of commanders and personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the law enforcement force of

the Islamic Republic of Iran. He outlined the domestic and foreign policy of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i named foreign enemies and internal decadence as the two main threats to Islam. He said: Islam has proposed jihad against infidels and hypocrites as a solution and a defense against external and internal calamity. Therefore, self-control is required to fight internal decadence which is considered a bigger threat and may be caused by fatigue, incorrect understanding of the correct path, succumbing to carnal desires and being deceived by material things. [passage omitted]

Referring to the malevolence of the enemies of the Islamic system in the political, propaganda, and economic fields, the leader of the Islamic revolution said: The enemies of Islam are alert and are waiting for us to become careless, so that they can deal their blows at us anywhere they can. They are striving to defeat the Islamic Republic of Iran from a military, political, economic, and propaganda standpoint, ruin us from within, and undermine our resolve. The enemies of Islam have set the weakening of the will of pious youths as the aim of their poisonous propaganda. For they are fully versed with youth's strength and effectiveness on the battlefield and in the arenas of progress and revolutionary struggles. Therefore, the people, officials, writers and orators should be alertly watchful against the enemy's various ploys.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said that the publication of certain things in the press claiming that the Islamic Republic of Iran has moved away from the goals of the revolution and has compromised with the enemy is not a fact about the system but a matter of the personal views of the authors. He said: The general movement and the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran do not bow to the views of individuals. This system is a revolutionary and Islamic system and is decisively and forever hostile to the arrogant enemies of the Islamic revolution and those who have dealt it blows throughout its lifetime, and will never be reconciled with them.

The leader of the Islamic revolution described the invaluable role of the pious Guards and Basiji personnel in advancing the aims of the Islamic revolution and system. He said: How could the pious and earnest youths of the Guards and Basij, who have devoted the best part of their lives to pleasing God and safeguarding the revolution and its lofty goals on the battlefields, stand by and listen to remarks made about contact and reconciliation with the arrogant and enemies and, as the imam [Khomeyni] put it, wolves. The stances of the system must be declared by its officials and, as I have repeatedly said, the system of the Islamic Republic will never be friendly to the enemies of the revolution.

While exposing the nature of Islam's enemies, the supreme leader said, addressing officials and statesmen: The enemy, who intend to inflict a blow on the Islamic Republic of Iran, will not place their science and technology at your disposal even if you show them favor and smile at them. But when you demonstrate that you can get along with your affairs without any need for them, all the doors will open to you. On the other hand, if you were to demonstrate that you are watching their hands, to give you something, the doors will remain closed.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to the proud Iranian nation's talent, capabilities, and potential as the main asset on which the system and the state will rely. He added: The day when our youths' talents were revived and our workshops resumed work, every one realized that the IRGC and our committed forces in the army, the construction jihad and other organs are not only efficient warriors in the battlefield, but are also capable researchers, producers and inventors in science and reconstruction. As a result we saw visitors coming from various regions of the world to trade with us. Our nation does not need to beg from anybody or give protection money to anyone. This is the same understanding of the government and the policy pursued by our president and commanders.

Declaring that any action aimed at satisfying the arrogant powers in the hope of receiving aid and eliminating need is wrong and indecent, the leader of the Islamic revolution said: We do not need their help, on the contrary they need us, the oil and friendship with our 60 million-strong nation as well as the powerful government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this sensitive region. Therefore it is only through maintaining the honor, glory, and respect of the nation that we will be ready for exchanges with them.

The esteemed leader said the western claims regarding Iranian support for terrorism and violation of human rights are only an excuse for enmity with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Explaining the causes of opposition to Islamic Iran by global arrogance, led by America, he said: We are irreconcilable on the issue of Palestine, and have consistently emphasized that Palestine belongs to the Palestinians. The Israeli government is a usurper and must be destroyed, and the Palestinian government must be established in its place. This is a fundamental issue, and on this basis we oppose any move that contradicts this aim. We have always revealed designs of global arrogance against Islam and Muslim nations, and today we witness various designs aimed at weakening the Muslims and hurting the feeling of the Muslim nations, examples of which are the tragedy of Bosnia-Hercegovina and the destruction of the great and historic Babri mosque in India. The world has kept completely silent regarding these savage actions.

Citing the tragic massacre, the destruction of life, and the actions in making pious Muslims homeless in Tajikistan as well as the silence of international circles as other examples of designs by arrogant powers against the Muslims, Ayatollah Khamene'i said that as far as Islamic faith and sentiments—as well as political stances—are

concerned, we stand together with all the innocent Muslims of the world and we will declare our views with firmness and without reservation everywhere. However, despotic powers who are angered by the stances taken and revelations made by the Islamic Republic of Iran refuse to declare the true reason for their enmity with the Islamic Republic of Iran and its defense of the rights of Muslims throughout the world, because this would be in the interest of Islamic Iran. Therefore, they show their enmity by putting forward baseless claims such as Iran's defense of terrorism and violation of human rights.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i emphatically stated opposition to bullying as a principled policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, adding: We oppose bullying from any quarter; we regard it as ugly behavior. America's claim to lead the world and its interference in the affairs of other countries amounts to bullying. We say America, which is situated on the other side of the world, has no right to interfere in the affairs of other countries. It must devote its time to solving its own vast human and moral problems as well as the lack of security in its society.

The leader of the Islamic revolution referred to America's monopolization of human sciences and advanced technology as yet another sign of its bullying and despotic nature. He added: Arrogant powers with America at their head have monopolized human science and advanced technology. They intend to dictate to all the world; but we have stood against them. We will never accept their despotism toward us or any other nation.

He said that America cannot tolerate devotion to Islam and Islamic tenets by the government of Iran and the Iranian nation. This is yet another reason for America's hostility to the Islamic system. [passage omitted]

Stressing that America is well aware that the Islamic republic system is the most popular in the world, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: The officials of the system are from the people; there is a unique sincerity between the people and the officials. [passage omitted]

In conclusion the leader of the Islamic revolution called on the IRGC to preserve their capabilities, enhance their spiritual strength, and place goals before everything else. He said: The great duty of the country's pious youths is to preserve this system intact and pure. [passage omitted]

Suggestion That U.S. Make Amends With Islam Criticized

LD2701102093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Pre-agenda remarks by Deputy Mahmud Astaneh at the Majles open session—live]

[Excerpt] The respected deputies will forgive me for we were not going to have pre-agenda speeches while we were studying the budget, but the very important speech of the esteemed leader of the revolution [Khamene'i] has forced this humble servant to take a few minutes of the time of the respected Majles.

The exhilarating, pleasing, and firm speech of our dear leader has rejuvenated us. It is as if the departed imam [Khomeyni] was speaking. In a part of his talk he pointed to recent discussions in the press.

I who had been previously confused by the publication of the article "Clinton and the Dark Horizons," written by a member of our own assembly, in which it was suggested that the new American Administration should stop its support of Israel and make amends with the world of Islam, now think it proper to read you a few quotes from the departed imam, and to suggest to the writer to read the will of the imam—the second charter of the revolution—before writing such articles. [passage omitted]

Article Alleges Nuclear Bomb Came From CIS

AU2601191993 Munich FOCUS in German 25 'an 93 pp 135-136

[Report by Yves Le Braz: "Iran Has Atom Bomb"]

[Text] Head of state and chief of government 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has come a bit closer to his goal of turning Iran into a "world power." Unnoticed by the rest of the world, the mullah state has procured nuclear weapons and is currently trying to develop delivery missiles.

—According to U.S. intelligence sources in Iran, two nuclear warheads with an explosive power of 40 kilotons TNT (21 kilotons were used at Hiroshima) are operational. They can be mounted to a Scud delivery missile.

—An atom bomb that can be dropped from a MiG-27 aircraft is operational.

—The fourth nuclear weapon that Tehran has is a nuclear artillery shell with an impact of 0.1 kilotons of TNT. It is not known if this shell is operational.

The weapons come from some central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union. The Arab weekly AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, published in Paris, writes that apart from North Korea and China, German firms are also involved.

According to congressmen who are close to the U.S. intelligence services, the most important elements of the warheads, including the fissionable material, come from Kazakhstan. Other elements were supplied by other central Asian republics. The deliveries went via Turkmenistan.

By mid-December 1991, all parts for the warheads had arrived in Iran where they were taken over by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps. The Guards, which were given military status only recently and which, to the embitterment of many military officers, were put in charge of

building the armed forces in addition to the task of exporting the Islamic revolution, also called in weapons experts.

A year ago the missile warheads were stored in barracks near Tehran, where they were checked by Iranian and former Soviet specialists. They found that while all necessary parts were there, the code instructions were missing on how to prime the warheads. Tehran therefore recruited two additional Russian experts who short-circuited the safety device in the warheads.

Some parts of an atom bomb that can be dropped from an aircraft arrived in Tehran from the eastern Kazakh military district on the Chinese border. Other key elements came from Tadzhikistan. The bomb was brought to an air force base near Tehran.

Test flights of the MiG-27, which will carry the bomb, have been launched taken from the Shiraz air force base. This shows that Iran is targeting its bomb on the eastern Arabian peninsula and the oil states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Oman, or naval units operating in the Persian Gulf, and, above all, U.S. aircraft carriers.

The Iranians also bought a nuclear artillery shell In Kazakhstan.

With North Korean and Chinese support, the Iranians are currently trying a crash program to produce intermediate-range missiles for nuclear warheads. From these launching pads, they could reach Israel.

According to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, Germany is also helping Tehran to develop delivery missiles. Germany has allegedly supplied the naviagation systems.

Iranian military pilots were trained at the North Korean Air Force base at Wonsan. These pilots are stationed in the same air base near Tehran as the nuclear weapons. Special pilots are also stationed in the air base at Shahid Hamran/Bushir.

When Iran bought a large number of highly efficient Soviet and Chinese combat aircraft, many Iranian pilots were trained on them. Later, about 500 Iranian pilots were sent to the Air Force Academy in Shanghai.

Some 80 experienced pilots and engineers from the Revolutionary Guards studied at the Air Force Academy in Moscow.

The Israelis, who were attacked in the Gulf war with missiles by Iraq, are of course watching these events closely. They see the development less dramatically than influential conservative congressmen who are close to the arms industry and are spreading the intelligence information in Washington.

After all, Deputy Israeli Chief of General Staff Shahak-Lipkin said that it was the greatest and most important challenge for the country to combat the nuclear threat to Israel: "As far as I am concerned, all or almost all measures for such a mission (countering the nuclear strike capability of any Arab country) are permitted and legitimate."

In 1981 Israel attacked and destroyed from the air the Oziraq reactor in Tammus near Baghdad. The Israelis said the reason for their attack was that an Iraqi atom bomb was to be developed with this reactor, which had been built with French assistance.

The Israelis are insinuating, however, that the conservative U.S. congressmen intend to defend U.S. weapons supplies to Arab states over Israeli reservations.

On the other hand, a European intelligence service that is generally well-informed about the Middle East confirmed the U.S. information to FOCUS.

General Leonid Shebarshin, former head of the KGB First Directorate, told FOCUS: "I am seeing deliberate disinformation in the U.S. information about Iran." The information is intended to demonstrate that Moscow is unable to control the nuclear weapons stored in the CIS republics, he said. "In addition, they want to promote the arms industry."

Report Labelled 'Ridiculous'

LD2701110293 Tehran IRNA in English 0953 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—A Persian daily Wednesday [27 January] reiterated that the Zionist regime was the main threat to the region and called on nations to beef up their anti-Zionist campaigns.

The Persian daily, "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" was commenting on a report published in a newly-launched German weekly alleging that Iran had received a nuclear bomb and completed test flights with MiG-27 to use the bomb in attacks on Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman as well as units of the American forces in the Persian Gulf—something which the paper termed as "ridiculous."

The German weekly "FOCUS" added that the Zionist regime was watching Iran's military movements and had announced explicitly its intention of destroying all atomic installations and armaments in any Arab state or Iran.

The daily asked in its editorial if Iran was supposed to attack Arab states with its alleged atomic bomb why the Zionist regime was so concerned. All the reports and issues intending to introduce Iran as "the major threat in the region" are led by international Zionism and the Zionist regime, it said.

The Zionists who have smelled the danger from Islamic uprisings throughout the Islamic world and are well aware of Iran's influence on these movements, have no other choice but to counter Iran and question its operations and policies under any possible means. The daily said even if Iran possessed such a bomb how would it be

able to destroy six Arab states and at the same time make a hell for the American Marines in the Persian Gulf.

Warning that international Zionism feared the growth of Islam in the world and that it would turn to any means to counter Islam, the daily stressed that the real nature of the Zionist regime, the main threat to the region, should be exposed to nations through rational methods. Governments too should be discouraged from joining the disgraceful Camp David Treaty and reconciliation with the usurper Zionists.

The daily deplored that the enemies of Islam had been successful in infusing their concerns into Arab and Islamic countries through their hostile policies and that the regimes ruling in Islamic countries had been chasing and massacring Muslims instead of the enemies. It is for this same reason, said the daily, that the region and the world of Islam had no other way but to exterminate the Zionist regime.

'Other Objective,' of U.S. Iraq Policy Cited

NC2601202593 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 13 Jan 93 p 10, 12

[Commentary by M. Mollazadeh: "Iraq-United States"]

[Text] The Iraqi-U.S. crisis seems to have subsided following a period of intense propaganda warfare. The question arises: Was there a real crisis or did the two sides have other objectives in exacerbating tension?

A look at the facts reveals that in the last days of Bush's presidency, Bush and Saddam engaged in this duel for their own interests, and each believes they are the victor.

Saddam probably wanted to test the U.S. Administration again and followed his usual tactics: He adopted an intransigent attitude, pushing hardline propaganda to the very edge, and then retreated, displaying flexibility. This tactic has been used to the regime's advantage and will probably be used again. At home and in the Arab world he once again makes his presence known and does so in a way that makes the world take notice. This has a psychological impact on the Arab world.

The Arab masses are at the end of their rope from the humiliation their ruling regimes have brought on them, and they are deeply gratified that Saddam still stands up, if only verbally, to the domineering of the United States, even in his present situation.

The disarray in Egypt, the fear reigning in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and Libya's leanings toward Iraq all demonstrate the current turmoil in the Arab world. The question is not whether conditions were ripe for the United States and its allies to attack. Whenever it wishes, and when its interests dictate, the United States manages to create the right political and military conditions.

The question is: Why isn't the Iraqi problem solved once and for all? Can't the four major powers and the United States eliminate Saddam in one fell swoop? Facts and figures say they can. The Iraqi dissidents who congregated in Irbil did not expect the implementation of their resolutions to take so long. They gathered in the hope they would be considered the legal replacement for the current Iraqi regime and that they would deliver their country from its confrontation with the United States and its European and Middle Eastern allies.

Prolonging the exile of these dissident forces will raise doubts about their capabilities and affirms that the Westerners are quick to make lavish promises which are rarely fulfilled. The Iraqi regime has always displayed intransigence in accepting any changes from abroad. Saddam must have steeled himself in anticipation of even greater resistance than he is experiencing now, forcing one to question the dissidents' capabilities.

Hence, there must be a reason for the U.S. policy towards Iraq; a policy very few believe will culminate with the downfall of the current Iraqi regime. Have the Iraqi dissidents asked themselves how they intend to enter Baghdad, and with what kind of domestic and foreign backing? Apparently, there is no satisfactory answer. If hopes have been pinned to Washington, they are not very realistic; the United States is not seeking to establish the rule of the Iraqi dissidents in the Gulf. At least, this is certainly not a priority for the United States.

For the United States, it appears the benefits of maintaining the status quo and keeping Iraq in a constant state of vulnerability are far greater than the advantages of establishing a dissident government in Irbil.

A glance at the weaons sales from the United States, Britain and France to the Gulf states shows the value of keeping Saddam at the helm in Baghdad. If not for Saddam's litany-chanting and his threats to Kuwait how would the United States have convinced the Congress and the American people to allow sales of arms to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Most of the arms are so advanced that the Arab countries will not have the expertise to use them for the next 10 years. Weren't similar sophisticated weapons gathering dust in Kuwaiti arsenals when Iraq first attacked Kuwait? Why was Kuwait not able to fend off the Iraqi attack even for a few hours? What guarantee is there that the same thing will not happen again?

Regardless of what government takes power, Iraq will still try to capitalize on the weakness of the smaller Arab countries in the Gulf region. These countries are weak not because they lack arms, they are weak because they have unhealthy relations with their people. The occupation of Kuwait exposed the Achilles heel of the littoral states.

These countries need internal reconstruction and national reconciliation more than anything else, no amount of sophisticated military hardware will solve their problems. Of course, this will certainly help the

stagnation in the Western arms market. The presence of Saddam as a constant threat over the heads of the fearful Arab shaykhs is essential.

One should not delude oneself that the United States and its allies will act every time they deliver dire ultimatums or that they will eliminate Saddam in one fell swoop. Saddam Husayn and Bush will continue their game until the last day of Bush's term. Bush wants his commission from arms sales and Saddam is trying to salvage his lost reputation. Saddam will not step over the line this time.

The looming war will not continue, but the new arms purchases will certainly be on their way to the Gulf shortly. If there is a real war, it is the one behind the scenes, arms manufacturers competing for shares of the Arabs' ill-gotten oil wealth.

While it may appear that the Gulf war was to the detriment of the oppressed Iraqi nation and beneficial for Western arms sales, the Iraqi regime knows full well that it has initiated a complex game, which will continue until the last drop of oil has been extracted from the Gulf. There is always the possibility that the world may find new sources of energy and stop depending on oil entirely, but there is no evidence to this effect.

Meanwhile, two groups will find themselves in an unpleasant situation and will not even be able to voice their complaints: the Iraqi dissidents, who have put all their eggs in one basket, and the Arab regimes, over whose heads the damoclean sword of Saddam continues to hang. Bush is only guest in the White House for a few more days, and we do not yet know if Clinton will be able to do business with Saddam. At least Saddam is optimistic that there may be a way out of the current impasse for him.

If Clinton draws the same conclusion as Bush: that preserving Saddam's leadership is to his advantage, we can safely surmise that Saddam has found his salvation. The United States has other enemies as well, and tackling them will be more important than confronting Saddam.

Clinton will probably consider Iraq the headache of Bush and the previous administration and will embark on problems of greater priority to the Democrats.

Reportage on Greek Minister, Delegation Visit

Delegation Arrives

NC2301160193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Theodhoros Anagnostopoulos, the Greek minister for transport and communications, arrived in Tehran last night at the head of a political-economic delegation. The minister and his accompanying delegation were received by Serajeddin Kazeruni, Iranian minister of housing and urban development, who is also the Iranian chief of the Joint Greek-Iranian Economic Commission.

The Greek minister has come to Tehran to participate in the second session of the Joint Greek-Iranian Economic Commission.

Greek-Iranian Economic Meeting Held

LD2301155493 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—The second session of the Joint Economic Commission of Iran and Greece was held here Saturday morning chaired by Iran's Minister of Housing Serajeddin Kazeruni and Greek Minister of Transport and Communications Theodoros Anagnostopoulos.

Kazeruni said among members of the European Community Greece has the closest cultural bonds with Iran.

He said that the last year visit to Tehran of Greek officials including the Greek prime minister marked a turning point in Tehran-Athens relations.

Kazeruni underlined the need for expansion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, transport, tourism, shipbuilding, oil, gas and construction projects.

Anagnostopoulos said that both countries are interested in further expansion of bilateral cooperation and that they should work towards implementation of the agreements reached.

A memorandum of understanding in cultural, economic and trade cooperation is expected to be signed at the end of the session.

The Greek minister arrived here on a 5-day visit on Friday heading a 20-member delegation.

The first session of the Economic Commission was held in Athens in June 1991.

Minister Meets With Velayati

LD2401184693 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and visiting Roads, Transport, and Communications Minister of Greece Theodoros Anagnostopoulos today called for the establishment of peace and tranquillity in the Balkans.

The Greek minister who is in Tehran for the second assembly of Iran-Greece joint commission appreciated Iran's key role in the region and commented that his government is pleased with Iran's efforts for establishing peace and stability in the region and in the world.

Anagnostopoulos said Iran and Greece have many common grounds on the basis of which to establish mutual relations, and added that the Islamic Republic can look at Greece as a potential gate for entry to Europe.

He expressed satisfaction with the progress of work at the joint Iran-Greece commission and with the mutual relations with Iran.

The Greek minister expressed hope that peace would return to the Balkans by way of a logical solution. Velayati referred to the situation in the Balkans, where the Serbs are subjecting Europe's native Muslims to genocide, and said what is happening to the Bosnians is a "catastrophe" which should soon be brought to its end.

He added that continued fighting in the Balkans would be a threat to the region and to the whole world, and said that international circles have a responsibility of check the genocide of Muslims in Bosnia by the Serbs and to ensure the return of peace and security to Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Velayati said Iran and Greece have traditionally maintained good relations and observed that the Greece Government would do better to cooperate with Iran not only in terms of their mutual relations but also on the regional and international scene.

The Iranian foreign minister observed that because of the common historical and political elements between the two countries prospects for furthering relations are good. He added that the joint commission between the two countries offers a good opportunity for furthering solidifying the relations between Iran and Greece.

Commerce Minister Holds Talks

LD2401193793 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Greece could act as a bridge between Iran and Europe because of its membership in the European Community (EC), Greek Minister of Road, Transport and Communications, Theodhoros Anagnostopoulos, told Iran's Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji today.

Anagnostopoulos who is here to participate in the second Tehran-Athens joint economic commission, noting the enormous difference in Iran's favour between the two countries' trade exchanges, called for balanced trade ties.

He said Greek imports from Iran exceed dlrs [dollars] 600 million while its exports to the latter are a mere dlrs 20 million.

The Greek official proposed establishment of data banks as part of efforts to expand bilateral ties.

Vahaji listed the main factors for expansion of bilateral ties as issuance of visas by Greece to Iranian businessmen, banking facilities and pariticipation of the two countries' entrepreneurs in each other's trade fairs. He also welcomed Greece's cooperation with Iran in the field of reconsctruction.

Vahaji described as "good" the prospects of economic cooperation between the two sides and said Iran's three free trade zones at the Persian Gulf islands of Kish and Qeshm and the port of Chahbahar on the Gulf of Oman, provide excellent opportunities for foreign investment.

Iran, he said, was also ready to train Greek experts and provide transit facilities for Greek goods bound for the Central Asian republics.

Later today, the Greek minister met his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia, and reviewed agreements reached earlier between the two countries in the fields of air and land transport.

The two officials underlined the need for proper execution of the projects and expansion of Irano-Greek bilateral relations.

Expansion of Ties Called For

LD2601151393 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA—The visiting Greek Minister of Roads, Transport and Communications Theodhoros Anagnostopoulos expressed interest in further expansion of Tehran-Athens ties in various fields, in a meeting with Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Tuesday [26 January].

Anagnostopoulos also said the outcome of his talks with Iranian authorities would be "very effective" in promoting bilateral relations. The Greek minister said Tehran and Athens shared joint views on many political issues of the world.

Nateq-Nuri said he was confident that Tehran-Athens relations would expand in future, adding that establishment of parliamentary friendship groups between the two states would consolidate bilateral relations.

Referring to the U.S.-led allied bombing of Iraq under pretext of the latter's failure to abide by the U.N. resolutions, the Majles speaker questioned "do the Serbs who have committed so many crimes abide by the Security Council resolutions? Why does not the U.S. intervene there (Bosnia)?" he said.

"However, the war should continue so that the economy of big powers can thrive." The Majles speaker said. Meanwhile, Anagnostopoulos, on behalf of the Greek parliament speaker invited Nateq-Nuri to pay an official visit to Athens which he accepted.

Greek Minister Meets With Habibi

LD2601180493 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA—A high ranking Greek official said here Tuesday [26 January] that Greece can function as an important bridge between Iran and Europe.

Greece's Minister of Roads, Transport and Communications Theodhoros Anagnostopoulos in his meeting

with First Vice President Hasan Habibi, also said that Greece has always viewed the Islamic republic as a good friend.

Habibi said ties and cooperation between the two countries which have ancient civilizations and cultures, can be effective in preserving world peace and stability.

The first vice president expressed hope that the 2nd session of the Iran-Greece Joint Economic Commission would achieve desirable results.

Interior Minister, Others Leave for Turkey Visit

LD2501114793 Tehran IRNA in English 1126 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan., 25, IRNA—Iran's Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri left here for Ankara, Turkey on a four-day visit Monday [25 September] morning to hold talks with Turkey's senior officials and to attend Iran-Turkey border commission. The visit is taking place at the invitation of Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin.

While in Ankara Nuri will discuss political, security, disciplinary and bilateral border issues with senior officials and ways to counter drug dealers. The Iranian minister is accompanied by a number of high-ranking officials, including Commander of the Law Enforcement Forces Reza Seyfollahi.

Improvement in Tehran-Ankara Relations Viewed

LD2601205993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to political observers [Minister of Interior] Mr. Nuri's current visit which is taking place within the framework of security cooperation between the two countries will prepare preliminaries to the coming trip of Iran's First Vice President Mr. Hasan Habibi to Turkey.

After one year of cool ties between the two countries partial improvement has emerged in the Tehran-Ankara relations. Since the visit of [Turkish Minister of Interior] Mr. Ismet Sezgin to Tehran last September specially when we observed the normalization of there ties following the visit of Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to Tehran and the release of the ship Cape Maleas.

It appears that in consideration of the settlement of problems between these two countries the trend of future events is now directed at considerably boosting bilateral cooperation in various political, social, economic and cultural spheres. [passage omitted]

In the opinion of political observers in the view of expansion of cooperation between Iran and Turkey over the past few months this collaboration will undoubtedly lay a positive effect in preserving security and stability in the region.

At present the situation in Iraq and its importance for both Iran and Turkey constitutes a major subject that is encouraging their officials to foster further cooperation in order to check escalation of the crisis in the region.

Also despite their common postures of the Turkish and Iranian officials on cooperating with the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina in countering the Serbs aggression, such a collaboration has not brought about any positive result at the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the UN for the Bosnian Muslims.

With regard to the crisis in Afghanistan and the republics of Central Asia and Caucasia too, the cooperation between Iran and Turkey will prove very effective.

Apart from political cooperation it is expected that with the formation of a joint commission between the two countries and the conclusion of new agreement in the economic field the volume of commercial exchanges and economic cooperation will increase considerably during the current year.

To sum it up one can say that the plot orchestrated by those states which are desirous of creating tension in the ties of Ankara and Tehran will be neutralized through the political knack of Iran and Turkey, the two friendly neighboring states and indisputably meetings between the top officials and talks between the two sides are rated as a major step in this direction.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Praises Role of IRGC

LD2501165493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today praised the important role of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] in establishing the Islamic Republic of Iran's system and political independence. He stressed the need for the IRGC forces' total readiness, consolidation of military capability, and united participation in the country's reconstruction.

[Unidentified correspondent] The president, who was addressing IRGC commanders and personnel at the IRGC central headquarters on the occasion of the arrival of the auspicious anniversary of His Holiness Imam Husayn—may God's blessing be upon him—and IRGC Day, said in his speech: The Islamic system is now dictated from within, and this stability is the result of the IRGC's sincerity, selflessness, and presence on the arena of the revolution, the pursuit of the path of Imam Husayn—may God's blessing be upon him—and the defense of the historic and constructive movement of 'Ashura. [passage omitted]

Expressing his pleasure at the efforts made toward upgrading the educational, training, and technical capability of the IRGC, the head of the Supreme Defense Council underlined the need to strengthen the IRGC's sense of spirituality, faith, and selflessness, and to equip them with up-to-date military facilities.

He said: Today, the principal duty of you selfless guards is to maintain your readiness and guard your greatest asset, that is, your faith and belief in the rule of the supreme jurisconsult, and sincerity in your actions; since your are now under the leadership of a personality, who, like you, and alongside you, participated in jihad during the hardest days of the Iran-Iraq war, and that is the greatest of blessings for which you should be grateful.

Expressing his wish for the return of the remaining POW's in Iraq, the regaining of the rights of the brave Iranian nation from the aggressors, and total political victory, the president advised: By taking inspiration from the immaculate spirit of the martyrs, the guards must try to strengthen their relation with the honorable free men and selfless devotees. He added: Our enemies will leave us alone once they realize that we continue to be strong and could face them as a serious and superior power.

Remarking on the fate of revolutions in other parts of the world, the president said: No country and revolution has had as many troublemakers and vindictive enemies as we have; this is because we call for justice and equality on the international scene, while they see us as a big obstacle in the way of their illegitimate interests. [passage omitted]

Notes Big Powers' Hostility

LD2501173593 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Monday [25 January] said the big powers still under the impression that Islamic Iran was an obstacle to their illegal interests, are showing their teeth.

"Since Iran is an advocate of justice and equality in international forum, they cannot tolerate such an outcry," Hashemi-Rafsanjani told a gathering of the commander and personnel of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps [IRGC].

Urging the IRGC personnel to be on alert and maintain vigilance, the president assured them that the big powers could not threaten Iran more than they did during the Iraqi-imposed war. "In case our military forces maintain their readiness they can do nothing," he added.

The president recalled that in the course of the 1980-88 war imposed on Iran by Iraq, the big powers supplied the Iraqi Army with the most sophisticated, strategic arms and with lethal chemical weapons.

"The greatest asset possessed by the IRGC personnel is their faith in and commitment to velayat-e faqih (custodianship of the supreme jurisprudent). Besides preserving and strengthening such value, IRGC should equip itself with modern military hardware," the president said.

Before the president's speech, IRGC Commander Major General Mohsen Reza'i reaffirmed IRGC's readiness to safeguard the Islamic revolution.

Commentary on Rabin's Increasing Isolation

LD2601143393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] [passage indistinct] A senior U.S. State Department official has told a number of Arab and Islamic states' ambassadors to the United Nations that Bill Clinton's administration favors postponement of talks on the new Security Council resolution. Of course, no one has any hope of Israel being forced into action by the Security Council. There are dozens of resolutions on the Palestinian crisis which have either been rejected or misconstrued by Israel and the world has shown no determination in terms of taking a practical action against the Zionist regime's offence. On the other hand, the strong line taken by the Security Council in terms of punishing Iraq, has more than ever before, cast a shadow of doubt over that council's ability. [passage omitted]

Aside from the Security Council's new resolution, there is no doubt that the Zionist regime and Yitzhaq Rabin are becoming increasingly isolated by the world. It is interesting to note that even a number of ministers from Rabin's cabinet recently agreed to the repatriation of the expelled Palestinians; Rabin has reportedly reprimanded those ministers telling them to save their remarks for cabinet debates.

Meanwhile, according to the Israeli press Rabin has lost his nerve, reproaching his ministers for having initially approved of the Palestinians' expulsion but now speak against it. One of Rabin's ministers proposed the granting of some concessions, but Rabin interrupted him saying that he had been aware of the minister's stand for some time, and that listening to him was a waste of time.

There is no doubt that Rabin's hasty decision to deport the Palestinians has nullified his previous efforts toward expanding Israel's ties with Europe and the world community, hence a return to the gloomy days of the premiership of Yitzhaq Shamir. Of course, Rabin's isolation is not restricted to world public opinion. He is also facing difficulties from his party and government. He has a rival called Shim'on Peres, who is at present the foreign minister. One of Shim'on Peres' close aides has recently been made the chairman of the Labor Party.

Moreover, the party has declared support for Ezer Weizman—whose relation with Rabin is not so good—as Israel's next president.

However, and in view of these pressures and isolations, Rabin has no choice other than to change tack and claim that some of the Palestinians were deported by mistake and that they could return, or appeal to Israel's High Court. But the Palestinian deportees who have become aware of Rabin's stratagem, they have said that they are not willing to be repatriated in several stages, and that they must all be repatriated at the same time. They have also refused to meet lawyers, lodge an appeal, or even contact members of their families in that connection.

It is evident that Rabin has thrown himself and his cabinet in a whirlpool from which there are no escape routes. Even if American pressure prevents the sanctioning of any new Security Council resolution against Israel, world public opinion has come to realize that they can no longer tolerate Israel's criminal policies.

'Zionist' Aims Behind Deportations Viewed

NC2701075993 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 6 Jan 93 p 15

[Commentary by Majid Karimi: "Crisis of Palestinian Deportees and Objectives of Zionist Regime"]

[Excerpts] When news came of the expulsion of 415 Palestinians from the occupied areas, it was considered the latest ploy by the Zionist regime and a hasty reaction to the escalation of the intifadah, which is entering its sixth year. Assessing developments, it appears that the latest action of the usurping regime does not solely aim to inflict a blow on the Islamic movement in the occupied areas, but it has other motives to boost the regime's bargaining power in the peace talks. An appraisal of this action by the Zionist regime and the merits and demerits of the move would be appropriate. [passage omitted]

The first objective was to suspend talks until 20 January, when the Democrats take over the U.S. Government. The declaration of the Democrats' categorical and official stance in the ninth round of the talks is very important for the Zionist regime, because of the Democrats' traditional support for the Zionists.

The second aim of the usurping regime is to use the deported Palestinians as hostages and to play them as bargaining chips at the right time, to haggle for greater concessions in the talks.

The third objective is to sow discord and create a rift in the ranks of the various Palestinian factions, which recently took steps for a struggle against the usurping regime; one cannot be too optimistic about the favorable impact of these steps on the progress of the intifadah.

In principle, the popular uprising of the intifadah and the Islamic Movement of Palestine are the greatest dangers for achieving a compromising Arab-Israel peace. This would greatly jeopardize the peace talks and, in this manner, the Zionists and the traditional Arab leaders seek to wrest the initiative from the true and irreconcilable Palestinian Islamic factions. The Islamic groups should be wary of the trend of events in the past few weeks and of any closeness with the PLO.

The fourth Zionist objective is to seize the initiative on the domestic and regional political scene. The Zionist regime has sought to shrug off any unpleasant repercussions and reactions of protest in the past two weeks by announcing preconditions for the return of the deportees to their homeland. [passage omitted]

How far the Zionist regime can save itself from the negative reaction that its action has generated and use it for its own benefit depends more on the vigilance of the Palestinians than anything else. With the fortitude of the deportees in the worst possible conditions, it is now the turn of the politicians to bank on this valiant resistance—to carry out more belligerent moves against the Zionist usurpers and aggressors.

Vice President Mohajerani Discusses Ties With Egypt

NC2401192093 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 17 Jan 93 p 2

[Commentary by 'Ataollah Mohajerani, vice president for legal and parliamentary affairs: "Iran and Egypt"]

[Excerpts] Iran and Iran's ties with Arabs were among the issues discussed in the joint press conference held by Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad. Hafiz al-Asad said: "The interests of the Arabs dictate that we should reach a compromise with Iran." Mubarak also spoke of Iran's importance and the advantages of relations with our country.

The importance of the comments of most Egyptian officials becomes clear when you listen to the Egyptian interior minister, who appears to have an inclination to periodically make comments against Iran. (He recently made the same chronic incriminating remarks in his interview with the AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspapers and had said that he saw no reason to prove the veracity of his remarks) [passage omitted]

We should not underestimate the great Egyptian nation, which deserves attention in view of its deep-rooted Islamic culture and the Islamic fervor that has recently manifest itself there. The Egyptians themselves were pioneers of learning. [passage omitted]

The Egyptians' eagerness to learn the Persian language and their extreme attachment to the Islamic Revolution is evident in Egypt. What is more important is that any crack in the Islamic world only benefits the enemies of Islam and the Muslims. Undoubtedly, if the Islamic countries had been united and in harmony, regardless of

their differences in stances and viewpoints, the fate of the Islamic world would have been far different from what it is today.

The current Egyptian Administration effectively supported Iraq during the imposed war and was an influential member of the Gulf Cooperation Council established against Iran. The special relationship between Egypt and Israel has been the main and most obvious source of difference between Iran and Egypt. However, did Kuwait support of Iraq any less than Egypt did during the war? Are relations between Turkey, our next-door neighbor, and Israel weaker than those between Egypt and Israel? What about the ties of East and West Europe, and Latin America's ties with Israel? Are they more privileged than Egypt?

Egypt should also be judged by these standards.

There is no doubt that correct and calculated relations between two nations, two countries, and two cultures have an impact. It would be prudent if in choosing between two virtues, one would choose the greater virtue, and, between two evils, the lesser evil.

Editorial Criticizes Cairo's 'Camp David Regime'

NC2401165893 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Jan 93 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Army of Muhammad Is Coming"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Today we hear cries from Cairo, where Egyptian youth and students have made "Death to Israel" their slogan and, together with the world's freedom seekers, herald that "the army of Muhammad is coming."

This cry should not be underestimated. This is the cry of a nation that wants to stifle the Zionist criminals to death with its hands of rage and cleanse the Islamic land of Palestine from the savage occupiers forever.

The huge anti-Israeli student demonstrations in Cairo now top the list of Egypt's problems. Once again, the excited movements of the brave Egyptian youth are attracting the Islamic world's attention. Their cry symbolizes the Egyptian nation's powerful inclination toward Islam and against Israel. The Egyptian youth want the disgraceful Camp David treaty abrogated. They want the Israeli nest of spies in Cairo and the Egyptian Embassy in Israel to be closed down. With their rageful cries, they have displayed the power of Islam with marches that look like military parades in the streets of Cairo. [passage omitted]

Recently, Husni Mubarak said: "If the Iranians want Jerusalem liberated, I tell them that Egypt is open to all those who want to liberate Jerusalem and that 50 million Egyptians will applaud them. I, too, will wish them success."

These remarks are actually a confession that no one in Egypt believes in the "disgraceful Camp David agreement," that 50 million people in Egypt would be happy to see Israel annihilated, and that even the leader of Egypt's Camp David agreement wishes the enemies of Israel success in annihilating Israel. It is deceptive when Mubarak says that "Egypt is open to anyone who wants to liberate Jerusalem."

If this were so, the brave Egyptian youth would not be cast into the Cairo regime's medieval dungeons and martyred by torture because of their hatred toward the Zionist occupiers. If this were so, the heroic Egyptian officer Khalid al-Islambuli [the Egyptian soldier convicted for killing seven Israeli tourists in an October 1985 attack on a tourist bus and who was found dead in his cell in January 1986] would not have been martyred because he hated Israel.

Mubarak is a deceiver; however, he has come to know very well that the rule of deceivers in the great land of Egypt has ended. There is no doubt that the brave children of Islam will liberate dear Egypt from the clutches of Israel and that the brave children of Islam will return heroic Egypt to Islam's warm embrace.

The Camp David agreement gave the occupiers peace of mind. By trampling on this disgraceful agreement, however, the great Egyptian nation will give the Islamic world peace of mind. The Iranian nation and all the nations that thirst for the grandeur of Islam are ready to walk with the great Egyptian nation to liberate Palestine. Everyone should rest assured that "the army of Muhammad is coming" and that by entering the occupied territories, this army will help the oppressed nation of Palestine enjoy the sweet taste of freedom.

The army of Muhammad is coming and the pride of the great Egyptian nation and the brave Egyptian youth is that today they are members of this great army and with their spectacular military parade, they have made the blood of Islam boil in the veins of the Egyptian nation.

Mubarak has called on those who seek Jerusalem's freedom to go to Egypt. Those who are enamored with the grandeur of Islam will certainly do so; but not at the invitation of Mubarak, who has placed himself totally at Israel's disposal. Our brave combatants will go to Egypt to open up the western front against the Zionist occupiers. By that time, however, it will be the brave Muslims of Egypt who will welcome and embrace them.

Islamic Iran's stance on the brave Egyptian nation and Cairo's Camp David regime is extremely clear. The leader, the government, and the nation of Iran love the brave nation of Egypt, with its revolutionary background, and consider the Egyptian people to be the dearest friends of Islam and of the Muslims. As far as Cairo's Camp David regime is concerned, however, as long as the chains that keep it in the clutches of Camp David exist, there is no possibility that bilateral relations will change in the least.

There may be some in the foreign policy structure who are tempted to establish relations with Cairo's Camp David regime. First of all, this is too small a group to mention; second, its wish [to establish relations with Egypt] stems from their lack of self- confidence and their lack of faith in the role of nations.

The leader of the revolution, the president, all the revolutionaries, and all those who fervently believe in the grandeur of Islam believe that we should be as patient as necessary to fulfill whatever is in the interests of Islam and the Muslims so that the Egyptian nation will be given the necessary opportunity to gain its independence and pride and be freed from the chains of Zionist bondage. The recent demonstrations in Cairo showed that the Egyptian nation is alive and has found its correct path.

Islam is determining the future of Egypt. It is our duty to confront those who have risen against Islam and the Muslims in Egypt. The weak and timid may believe that we can achieve more through compromise with the Egyptian regime. This is merely a detour that we should ignore. We need to put matters in order with the simple-minded and the timid, whose actions and words hurt system, the revolution, and Islam. We do not want their timidity and weakness to be attributed to the system, the revolution, or the country.

Saddam Husayn's Transition From Power Predicted

LD2601140893 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA—Two morning dailies Tuesday editorialized on the current situation in Iraq with the English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL advising Saddam Husayn to give a chance to others and the Persian daily ABRAR predicting his dismissal from power.

"Transition of power from Saddam Husayn to a popularly based government seems the least that he can do to place Iraq on the right course," wrote KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

On the existing chaos in Baghdad in the aftermath of the second strikes of the allied forces on January 13, the paper said the Iraqi officials kept saying they were committed to their "cease-fire promise" while they kept moving arms and equipment around, or used them in violation of the provisions of the U.N.-sponsored peace agreement.

Baghdad's "friendly overtures" on improving relations with the new U.S. Administration did not work or at least Americans did not share Baghdad's feelings and were not eager to reciprocate it, said the paper.

"The tune coming out of Washington and London seems to be calling for the ouster of the present Iraqi leadership, and the recent allied attacks on Iraqi air defense systems... seem to have been more intended to destabilize the Iraqi regime and erode what has remained of its popular support base rather than bring about compliance with the U.N Security Council resolutions."

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL referred to the hardship and humiliation that Iraq was going through and concluded that Saddam Husayn "must give others a chance to get Iraq out of its present quagmire."

On the same subject ABRAR wrote that while there was a public sympathy for Saddam in the attacks of the U.S.-led allied forces in 1991, circumstances have changed now and there is a general consent on a political system in Iraq without Saddam Husayn.

The public opinion is being led to the direction that as long as Saddam remains in power there would be no tranquility in the region.

Saddam has been accused of violating the U.N. resolutions, an accusation which could prompt the Security Council to give go ahead to the U.S. to sue and put on trial Saddam as the element of instability.

This scenario suits the human rights gestures of Democrats than the air raids of the Republicans.

The scenario, if implemented, will demonstrate another scheme of the so-called new world order, concluded ABRAR.

New U.S. Government's Military Policy Viewed

LD2501153093 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—An English daily Monday [25 January] [word indistinct] the way Bill Clinton was going to deal with the U.S. military establishment while pursuing his internal and foreign agenda.

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial wrote that U.S. cruise missile attack on a major Iraqi industrial plant near Baghdad, just before Clinton entered the White House, was a proof to the fact that the change planned by Democrats in U.S. defense policy was not going to be an [word indistinct] of Republican Administration which favoured more expenditure on the U.S. defense structure, the democrat president, as pledged in his election campaign, intended "to invest less on U.S. armed forces and spend more to develop the highly fragile U.S. economic infra-structure."

Clinton, an anti-Vietnam war activist during his youth, in his election campaign had promised to focus attempts on solving America's growing domestic and economic problems and improve American competitiveness in the international markets.

"Washington's renewed air and missile raids against targets inside Iraq was part of a plan by America's military establishment to give a strong signal to the

incoming president that although the cold war no longer exists and the threat of a so-called superpower confrontation is over, however, neither military expenditure nor the number of Armed Forces personnel should be reduced," the daily noted.

According to American military establishments "as the only gendarme of the world, the U.S. troops and their military hardware are deemed necessary wherever the new world order is challenged."

"The targets will not only be the aggressors such as Saddam Husayn, rather Americans can freely intervene in domestic affairs of any developing country, such as Panama and Somalia," the daily concluded.

Growing 'Strains' in U.S.-UK Relations Examined

LD2201125493 Tehran IRNA in English 1103 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] London, Jan. 22, IRNA—Prime Minister John Major has been notably on the defensive over British-American relations, which political analysts suggest underlines the apprehension in London of what to make of the new U.S. President, Bill Clinton.

Speaking in parliament Thursday, Major had to reiterate that Britain "remains a friend of the U.S." it followed strenuous efforts from the prime minister's office to talk up the relationship on Wednesday's inauguration of Clinton.

Political editor of THE TIMES, Peter Riddel believes that the uncertainty is not primarily to do with ideology but with personal unfamiliarity. British ministers, he says, are unsure how the new U.S. President will react to unpredictable foreign events.

But even in the last few months of the Bush administration, perceivable differences arose in such issues as armed intervention in Bosnia and more recently in military tactics in attacking Iraq to question the claimed special relationship between the two countries.

With the accession of Clinton, the strains have been added to by revelations that the UK Government tried to assist in a dirty tricks campaign by George Bush before November's election, when Home Office files were checked about Clinton's time at Oxford University.

History relates, however, that the "special relationship" has not always been what it seemed at the time, even about what was trumpeted on the close ties between Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt during World War Two, which have been proved to be the opposite.

Lyndon Johnson is also viewed never to have really respected Harold Wilson. Richard Nixon and Edward Heath are also known not to have got on well together. Even Margaret Thatcher's closeness to Ronald Reagan is questioned about its extent.

With a potential Major-Clinton conflict, the relationship is again under the spotlight, especially coming at a particular crucial time.

As Britain is being drawn between closer ties to Europe, it poses whether it will be at the expense of the U.S. and the influence it has exercised on the other side of the Atlantic for the past 50 years.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Departing Russian Ambassador

LD2701110993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Mr. Gudev, the Russian ambassador in our country, at the end of his mission.

At the meeting, expressing satisfaction about the progress made in Russian-Iranian relations, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that friendship between the regional countries and Russia is necessary in order to maintain peace and calm in the region. He welcomed the expansion of cooperation in all fields of mutual interest.

The Russian ambassador referred to the expansion of Russian-Iranian ties as the very positive outcome of his mission and described as very good the level of relations and cooperation between the two countries. He added: The people of Iran and Russia have deep historical and cultural roots. The friendly ties between the two countries will never be influenced by the suggestions of another country, and Russia needs powerful friends in the region such as the Islamic Republic of Iran.

President Receives Senegalese Envoy

LD2301141493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Mr. (Cheikh Mohamed Bakunta), the Senegalese president's special envoy and the leader of the Qadirite faction in that country, was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. The Senegalese envoy submitted a written message on the expansion of bilateral relations and the forthcoming session of the Islamic Conference Organization in Dakar from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf to our country's president. [passage omitted]

* Countries Seek To Curtail Shiite Activities

93AS0416B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 30 Dec 92 p 23

[Text] KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service. 5 Dey [26 Dec]—Following the West's fear of rising and progressive Shiite thought in Islamic societies, the struggles by regimes dependent on the West against the followers of this religion and to impose limitations on them have increased.

In the same regard, recently some high-ranking officials in Saudi Arabia sent a letter to Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-'Abdallah Ibn-Baz, secretary general of the Saudi centers of research and science, asking for the imposition of severe restrictions on the presence and activity of Shiites in this country.

This letter discussed the growth of academic, economic, commercial, and cultural activity in Shiite society and it portrayed their active involvement in various centers, especially academic and university ones and also in government institutions, as a wake-up call for the nation's officials.

The fanatic Wahhabis said that the printing of publications that reflect Shiite ideas is a means for spreading the ideas of the followers of this religion.

They also did not conceal their anger about the holding of the book fair last year in the city of Qatif (in eastern Saudi Arabia).

Among the serious wishes of the authors of this letter is to find solutions for waging a lightning campaign against the expanded influence, increasing numbers, and advancement of Shiites for the purpose of controlling eastern Saudi Arabia as much as possible.

Among the other demands of the fanatic Wahhabis is either to expel Shiites from the al-'Anud Mosque in the city of Dammam, which is a religious base, or to destroy this mosque as soon as possible.

At the same time there is a calculated plot afoot in Afghanistan with the support of Western sources and Afghan anti-Shiite groups—who enjoy the support of the Saudi regime—to eliminate Shiite jihad forces from the power equations in Afghanistan.

In the same regard, last week the German News Agency, quoting unnamed sources, reported a coup d'etat in Kabul and the arrest of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, this nation's minister of defense, by the Islamic Unity Party.

The spread of this rumor in Afghanistan caused Kabul officials and other groups supported by the Saudi family's regime to intensify restrictions on the rights of the Shiite mojahedin.

It is necessary to note that in the power struggle now going on in Kabul for the leadership of the country, groups affiliated with the West, with the cooperation of America and its allies in the area, are working so that no rights of any kind will be recognized for the Shiite mojahedin, who played a major role in driving out the Russian forces and in this nation's victory.

Western and reactionary circles have always considered Shiite progressive ideas as an obstacle to the implementation of their inhumane desires, and they are trying, through various means, to obstruct the increase of the followers of this religion and the presentation of their ideas in their societies.

Pakistan

Kashmiris Observe 'Black Day' To Mark Republic Day

BK2601144893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Black Day was observed throughout occupied Kashmir valley as well as Azad Kashmir to mark the Republic Day of India today. A complete strike was observed to protest against the persistent acts of arson and massacre of Muslims by Indian troops. Shops, educational institutions, and government and semigovernment offices remained closed. All types of traffic were off the road. Black flags were hoisted atop buildings, trees, and electricity poles to express resentment and indignation against the atrocities of occupation forces. The day dawned with bomb explosions at various places in the valley. In the capital, Srinagar, thousands of people demonstrated and set ablaze the Indian flag despite curfew restrictions and strict security measures. Three innocent people were martyred when Indian troops resorted to indiscriminate firing on the demonstrators to disperse them. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE], in retaliation, mojahedin attacked Indian troops, killing 18 of them.

In Azad Kashmir, demonstrations were held in various cities, including the capital, Muzaffarabad, today to mark the Black Day. The demonstrators carrying black flags called upon the world community to help end Indian aggression against Kashmiri Muslims. A large number of women also took part in the protest rally organized by the Tehrik-i-Hurriyat-i-Kashmir [Movement for the Freedom of Kashmir]. The rally terminated at the office of the UN Military Observer Mission in Muzaffarabad where a memorandum was handed over to a representative of the mission. The memorandum called for ending human rights abuses in occupied Kashmir and solution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions. And in Islamabad, a group of Kashmiri women demonstrated in front of the Indian Embassy to protest the gross human rights violations in the occupied valley. A memorandum was also presented to an official of the embassy that urges the Indian Government to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions.

Spokesman Comments on John Major's Kashmir Proposal

BK2601145093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan supports the legitimate aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and has extended moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri struggle.

In reply to a question regarding British prime minister, Mr. John Major's proposal for a bilateral dialogue

between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue, the spokesman said the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, had proposed and has again reiterated his suggestion for a dialogue to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the provisions of the Simla Accord. The spokesman said our position remains that the Kashmir dispute must be resolved in accordance with UN resolutions and the spirit of the Simla agreement.

John Major Urged To Rethink Investments in India

BK2601150793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 26 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "John Major in India"]

[Text] The British Prime Minister's present six-day long visit to India has come at a very critical time. That the visit is taking place in the backdrop of the longest and deepest recession in UK is quite significant. Obviously the type of goods that Major's hosts would be glad to buy are sophisticated military systems. However, Mr Major must realise that any step which intensifies arm race in this region will harm the long-term British interest in India. The visiting Premier should not play the politician who would resort to any means to tide over a bad patch.

Apart from the sale of military technology, the British will also explore the possibility of vastly inceasing British investment in India. It has been disclosed that apart from joint ventures, Indian government is keen to have British investment in energy production, oil exploration and telecommunications. However great the opportunities for profitable exploitation of Indian market may be, the British Prime Minister cannot remain indifferent to the rise of anti-constitutional, anti-democratic, Hindu nationalism in India. John Major should have the wisdom to link increased British participation in Indian economy with improvement in the human rights situation in India, protestion of minorities, and a stable social environment. While John Major was being toasted in Delhi, Hindu police were actually aiding and abetting the rioters to kill, burn, and loot the Muslim minority in Bombay and elsewhere. He must apprise his Indian counterpart of the widespread apprehensions that the present Indian government is in actual fact appeasing Hindu extremists. Without getting a firm commitment from the Rao government on measures to stem the tide of sectarianism, it would be unwise on the part of John Major to encourge British industrialists to put their money in that country. Also his statements on Kashmir are too timid and cautious to put any real pressure on New Delhi. Kashmir is the core issue which is the key to regional stability. In order to appear even-handed, he has gone to the length of diplomatic acrobatics by linking Indian atrocities in Kas[illegible]nir to external military assistance.

If John Major is unable to persuade New Delhi that rising tide of sectarianism and Indian intransigence in Kashmir will prevent the creation of an atmosphere conducive for foreign investment, hisn visit will be a dismal failure.

UK Attempts To Sell Arms to India Hurt Role as Mediator

BK2601151193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 26 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Major Intervention"]

[Text] Prime Minister John Major has tried to take a neutral position between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir problem during his current visit to India. He has suggested the possible role of an "honest broker" for Britain, provided it is asked to play such a mediatory role by both Pakistan and India. Mr Major had put forward a three point position on the issue. The three points are: a political process and respect for human rights in Kashmir, an end to outside support for the Kashmiri struggle, and talks between Pakistan and India under the Simla Accord. The newly appointed Foreign Minister of India, Dinesh Singh, lost no time in pouring cold water over these ideas. He stated that India wanted no third party mediation only bilateral talks under the Simla Accord. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on the other hand welcomed Mr Major's suggestions and point... out that Pakistan had written to Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Kao to hold bilateral talks on Kashmir according to the provisions of Article six of the Simla Accord. Mr Major's first suggestion implies halting the process of genocide unleashed by the Indian Army on the people of kashmir. On the second point the position is far leass clear. It is obvious that Mr Major was parroting the Indian claims that the Kashmir insurgency is being fuelle dby Pakistna, a claim which has led to threats of Pakistan being labelled a terrorist state. The argument that the UN resolutions on Kashmir are no longer legal tender because of their age is facetious. As far as we know, there is no statue of limitations that can be applied to UN Security Council resolutions, particularly when the problem which gave rise to them in the first place still persists to this day. The realities of power politics being what they are at the international level, it is only when oppressed peoples, after having exhausted all peaceful means to get their demands accepted and having been lent a deef ear by the international community, decide to resort to armed resistance that the world begins to sit up and take notice.

Howver, the real rub is in the third point put forward by Mr Major, inspite of its acceptance by the Indian Foreign Minster. Talks between Pakistan and India have been meandering along for years without an inch of significant progress. One is forced to come to the conclusion that for India these talks are part of a strategy of procrastination while a full fledged attempt is made to crush the freedom struggle in Kashmir by brutal military force. What amount of influence or pressure Mr Major can bring to bear on his Indian hosts is open to question, particularly in the light of the british Prime Minister's attempt to act

as a super salesman for his country to sell India arms to replace the former Soviet Union as India's main supplier of weapons. Indian intransigence is unlikely to offer Mr Major, were he so persuaded to pursue it, muchjoy on some forward movement in the impasse that is negotiatoins with Pakistan on resolving the Kashmir issue.

Spokesman Denies Country Arms Indian Sikhs, Kashmiris

BK2701113093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan has asked India to enter into a bilateral dialogue for resolution of Jammu and Kashmir problem in accordance with the Simla Accord instead of spreading baseless propaganda against Pakistan. A Foreign Office spokesman, briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, referred to the Indian press report that four Sikhs allegedly trained by Pakistani agencies had confessed to seeking to disrupt India's Republic Day celebrations. He also referred to the citation made for giving a gallantry award to an Indian officer who was killed in an encounter with Kashmiris. The spokesman rejected these false and mischievous allegations by India with the complete contempt which they deserved. He reiterated that Pakistan has no role whatsoever in the insurgencies in Indian Punjab or in any other part of India. The spokesman said Pakistan extends diplomatic, political, and moral support to the just and legitimate struggle of the Kashmiri people and that Pakistan does not provide them with military assistance.

Premier, Jordanians Meet; Joint Fertilizer Ventures

BK2401151693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] A delegation of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company headed by its chairman, Mr. (Husayn Qasim), called on the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, at the prime minister's house today. He discussed with him the proposed joint venture between Fauji Fertilizer Company and Jordan's Phosphate Mines Company. The project envisages establishment of a plant at Port Qasim for producing DAP [diammonium phosphate] fertilizer. The prime minister appreciated the first joint venture between the two brotherly Muslim countries and expressed the desire that it should be ready as early as possible.

In Rawalpindi today, an agreement was signed between Fauji Foundation and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company to set up a joint DAP fertilizer manufacturing plant in Karachi. The plant, expected to go into operation by 1996, will produce 445,000 metric tons of DAP and 346,000 metric tons of urea annually. Installation of a phosphoric acid plant in Jordan is part of the agreement. Phosphoric acid is one of the basic ingredients of DAP fertilizer. The total investment in the project is estimated at $400 million. Pakistan imports between 600,000-700,000 metric tons of DAP annually.

Zaki Receives Iraqi Envoy, Discusses UN Resolutions

BK2501100093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan has again appealed for the implementation of UN resolutions on Kashmir, Bosnia, and Palestine and said that the world body should not discriminate in implementing its resolutions. The appeal was made by M. Akram Zaki, secretary general of foreign affairs, while talking with Iraqi special envoy (Zukham al-Zahabi) who called on him in Islamabad yesterday. Zaki also emphasized that differences between countries should be resolved by peaceful means instead of use of force. The two sides said that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all UN member countries should be respected. During the meeting, the Iraqi envoy explained his government's point of view about the UN sanctions and spoke about the effects of these sanctions on the people of Iraq and its sovereignty and territorial integrity.